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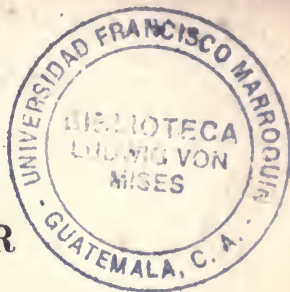


Hugh Craggs





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A

BRIEF MEMOIR

OF THE LIFE OF

JAMES WILSON,

(late of Edinburgh,)

WITH

EXTRACTS FROM HIS JOURNAL AND CORRESPONDENCE,

WRITTEN, CHIEFLY, DURING A RESIDENCE IN

GUATEMALA,

THE CAPITAL OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

“The world o'erlooks him in her busy search
Of objects, more illustrious in her view;
And, occupied as earnestly as she,
Though more sublimely, he o'erlooks the world.
She scorns his pleasures, for she knows them not;
He seeks not hers, for he has proved them vain.”—COWPER.

LONDON:

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EDINBURGH; M. OGLE, AND G. GALLIE, GLASGOW;
AND J. M. LECKIE, DUBLIN.

J. Haddon, Printer, Castle Street, Finsbury.

1829.

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PREFACE.

In presenting this little volume to the public, the author, or rather the compiler, is not without hope that it will prove both interesting and instructive. It is the plain, unvarnished outline of the life of one, whose worth was manifested more by deeds than by words. His faith was fixed upon the rock of ages. It did not evaporate in wordy and lengthened confessions of self-abasement; nor did it seek to revel in the imaginary delights of self-righteousness. In him, it produced genuine humility of heart, and strict integrity of conduct; and it inspired him with the confident hope of everlasting joy, through the one sacrifice of Christ, in which he lived and died.

In this Memoir there is something to amuse, and also something to inform the mind. The notes on Guatemala will be found valuable, inasmuch as we have been hitherto without much information in reference to that interesting country.

O.C.W. Elmeriest 104-2003/Q200-

Mr. Wilson was engaged in the business of this world,—in mercantile pursuits ; the young who read this brief Memoir will see, that correct and Christian conduct secures esteem, and kindles an affection which death itself cannot extinguish.

No attempt at embellishment has been made. If the subject matter of the volume does not procure it an extensive circulation, the author has little to hope from the share he has had in preparing it for the press.

London, 1829.



MEMOIR, &c.

The amiable and interesting subject of this Memoir was born in Leith. His father was a sailor on board one of His Majesty's ships, and was lost off the Texel during a tremendous hurricane. His mother was left destitute, with the care and responsibility of several young orphan children; but, when James became of the proper age, she was so fortunate as to procure his admission into that valuable institution, the *Orphan Hospital*, of Edinburgh.

It is unnecessary to enlarge on the benefits to be derived from the excellent discipline maintained in that noble asylum, and from the ample means provided for the education of its young inmates. Young Wilson partook of these benefits. He made fair progress in his education; and his general conduct was so marked by sobriety, steadiness, and order, that, when the period arrived for his leaving the Hospital, the respectable and respected gratuitous treasurer of the institution, the late William M'Lean, Esq., took him into his own warehouse as an apprentice, to learn the business of a woollen draper.

During the period of his apprenticeship, he resided with his mother, in Leith ; and he conducted himself so as to secure the approbation and friendship of his master. It does not appear that he was particularly fond of reading, till towards the close of 1815, at which time his apprenticeship had not expired ; nor did the powers of his humble, but acute mind, and lovely traits of character begin fully to develope themselves till some years afterwards.

Hitherto he had made no profession of religion beyond the ordinary respect which the Scottish community pay to the religious institutions of their country.

Some time in 1816 he accompanied a friend to the church in Leith Walk, under the pastoral care of Mr. J. A. Haldane and others, and for a considerable time after this, he regularly took his seat in the gallery of that meeting-house on the Lord's day. But still he seldom spoke about religion, and, from his extreme taciturnity on this subject, it was difficult to conjecture whether he ever *thought* much about it. During this period, however, his taste for reading was on the increase, and he was making rapid progress in the acquisition of general knowledge. He associated with few companions ; but they were well-chosen, and they continued the friends and companions of his riper years.

After the expiration of his apprenticeship he continued in the employ of Mr. M'Lean, but for greater convenience he had removed his residence to lodgings in Edinburgh. He was regular in all his movements, rose early in the morning both in summer and winter, took much exercise in walking alone, and was particularly temperate and careful as to his food. His general appearance and conduct had much of the semblance of

singularity; but it was the singularity of a man who thought little of himself, who sought retirement because it was congenial to his disposition, and kept aloof from society more from humble timidity of his own merits than from any inability to receive and communicate pleasure from social intercourse. For, although of a sedate mind and thoughtful countenance, with intimate friends he was cheerful and lively, and the sallies of his caustic humour were characterised both by wit and wisdom.

The first occasion on which he began to speak feelingly, and with an apparently deep personal interest in the revelation which God had given concerning his Son Jesus of Nazareth, was in May, 1818. He had been to Mr. Haldane's meeting-house as usual on the Lord's day: and on that Lord's day Mr. James Thomson, so well known as the interesting Agent of the British and Foreign Bible, and British and Foreign School Society in South America, and now in Mexico, was by the church solemnly commended to God, and to the word of his grace, being on the eve of his departure for Buenos Ayres. Mr. Wilson felt a deep interest in the services of the day, which were conducted by Mr. A. Smith, and Mr. A. Ker, the other pastor, Mr. Haldane, being then from home; and on the following morning he opened his mind to a friend, who was also present, expressing the pleasure and joy he had experienced. "When this verse of the hymn was sung,

' Fly abroad thou mighty gospel,
Win and conquer, never cease;
May thy lasting wide dominion
Multiply, and still increase,'

I felt as if I saw that the work was *done* and *finished*; that

there is nothing left for me or for any to do, but to believe in Him whom God has set forth as the propitiation for the *guilty*; and his gracious will is that this good news may be proclaimed throughout the whole world."

From this time forward he spoke more unreservedly on the grand topic of salvation by grace; and his reading became more directed in the channel of the divine word. Towards the close of 1818 he had some thoughts of making a public profession of Christianity, by uniting himself with the church in Leith Walk, and had made up his mind to speak with the pastors of that church on the subject. For a time, however, his retiring mind kept him back, and subsequently, some discussions in that body had the effect of diverting him from his purpose altogether. But he thought deeply and closely on the subject of religion;—the sentiments he had expressed, on the occasion already referred to were not the enthusiastic feelings of an excited imagination, they were the deep convictions of important truths which the Spirit of God, by means of the Scriptures, seemed to have impressed upon his *heart* through the medium of the understanding and judgment.

As he proceeded with his enquiries on the subject of religion, his mind became unsettled as to what church it was his duty to join. He visited many, and found objections to all. To some he objected on the score of unsound doctrine, and to others on the ground of unscriptural practice, till at last he would not permit himself to join apparently in the worship of any beyond his mere bodily presence, under the idea that, where he could not publicly join in *all*, he was not at liberty to *appear* to join with others in *any one act of devotion*. During prayer and praise he kept his seat in every assembly of pro-

fessing Christians, and seemed no farther interested than as a mere spectator. He continued to read his Bible with diligence and care, but abandoned every other religious book. Although he thus kept aloof from any open and public profession of the Christian name, yet his character appeared such as should adorn the Christian. He was an attentive son, an affectionate brother, and a sincere friend; honest in all his dealings, and upright in all his conduct.

It appears, by his own acknowledgment afterwards, that at this time the spirit of religion had begun to decline with him. His mind seemed more occupied with the consideration of certain dogmas, than with the Gospel itself; and it is to be feared that, for some considerable time after this, he entertained but a faint view of the glories of the world to come.

How weak and how feeble is man! ever ready to let the truth of God slip out of his mind—ever prone to neglect the things which are of paramount importance. True it is that he *lives by faith*—that he is only safe in being *kept daily in mind of Him* who is able to keep him from falling—and that when God is not in his thoughts, peace and comfort and joy are far from him. It is important that believers should examine the Scriptures, and that they should be able to render a reason for *all they believe*, and for *all they practice* in matters of religion; and it is imperative upon them to *obey* where they find, “*thus it is written.*” But they should also remember that all the precepts, commandments, and institutions of Christ’s Kingdom have a practical tendency—that they infuse joy, and produce willing obedience; that they cherish love, and excite to brotherly kindness; and that they are fitted to raise the mind and

affections above this world, and to keep them fixed upon better things to come : when they fail of producing these effects, there is some error in our minds which requires correction ; and which, if not corrected, will eat, as doth a canker, till all is consumed.

About this period a new object began to attract and occupy much of Mr. W's. thoughts and attention. He had heard and read much about the extensive emigrations which were taking place from this country to the back settlements of America ; and, considering that his life was likely to pass away in this country under monotonous and unprofitable servitude, he conceived the idea of joining the general tide, and pushing his fortune as a backwoodsman. He was much encouraged under this idea by the example of a particular friend who had conceived the same notion, and who some time afterwards began to follow up his ideas, by winding up his business in Edinburgh, and preparing to remove his family and property to Indiana, where a brother had already established himself and purchased some land.

He frequently conversed on the subject, endeavouring to set aside the arguments which his friends adduced against his proposed movement. At one period they seemed to have been successful, but again his wish to emigrate returned with redoubled force, and he came to the fixed determination of accompanying his friend. From that moment forward he swerved not from his purpose, but began in good earnest to prepare himself for his new undertaking.

His ultimate determination was rather unexpected ; for his friends had considered him as rather phlegmatic than sanguine, and as altogether without enterprise. They were mistaken, and their efforts to argue him out

of his purpose were altogether unavailing. He had no capital, nor even sufficient means to carry him out of his native country ; contemplating therefore a life of labour and poverty, in the first instance, he began to prepare himself to endure both. He restricted his diet to the coarsest fare, and laboured in a garden with the spade for several hours every morning at the village of Coltbridge, about a mile from Edinburgh, before going to his business in the warehouse. He informed Mr. M'Lean of his intentions, who did all in his power to dissuade him from his purpose, but in vain. A gentleman distantly connected with his family, both respectable and wealthy, was applied to to assist him ; but, as this relative did *not approve* of his intended proceedings, he declined giving his aid. With a kindness and benevolence much to be admired, he told him that he should assist his mother, which he was faithful in doing, and on application by Mr. M'Lean, unknown to Mr. Wilson, he even went so far as to send him a present of ten pounds. With all his genuine humility, James had a spirit that could not stoop to receive extorted or unwilling assistance. He at first absolutely and *peremptorily* refused to receive this money; but, after much persuasion, he consented to receive it as a loan, on being reminded that the money could be easily carried,—that he might keep it untouched till he required it, and that he could not tell of what important benefit it might yet be to him. This remark was ominous ; for this identical money was partly the means of enabling him to retrace his steps to Scotland.

On the 18th of August, 1820, the subject of this Memoir commenced his peregrinations by sailing from

Newhaven with the steam packet for Grangemouth, in order to join the ship at Greenock which was to carry him and his companions to Philadelphia. On the 22d, same month, he embarked at Greenock with his companions, and after a tedious and stormy passage of sixty-one days arrived at Philadelphia late in October.

After his arrival at Philadelphia, he proceeded, October 26th, on his journey to the interior, walking behind the waggon that conveyed his friend's family all the way to Pittsburgh, where they arrived November 12th. He describes the scene on crossing the range of the Allegany Mountains as an ocean of trees without a bound, the tops waving in the wind like the unbroken billows of the ocean. At Pittsburgh he and his companions remained three days, and having purchased an *ark*, proceeded down the Ohio for Cincinnati, where they arrived November 29th. They remained eleven days at Cincinnati, and, having laid in a store of necessities, they again proceeded, and arrived at Vevay December 12th. On the 16th of the same month he on found himself in the *land of promise*—in the very spot in the woods, about ten miles from Vevay, to which the eye of his mind had been so long and so keenly directed.

Like many emigrants, he had had many *visions* of this fair land; and Hope and Fancy had told him much that he longed to see and to enjoy. Now the Vision was gone with her accompanying attendants, and Truth stood before him, compelling his attention. He had begun to partake of some measure of Discontent before he left Scotland, and he had almost concluded that Prosperity had ceased to reward Industry in his native land. But the new scene was before him in reality. He

looked above and around him ; a few acres of land were clear, and, saving this, his prospect was bounded by the tops of trees and the blue arch of heaven.

As, for the first time, he took up his abode in a log cabin, he thought within himself, for what did I leave home? and what have I come here to receive? and he concluded thus: I could live at home, and here I may also *exist*, if I choose to labour in clearing land and felling trees, but from *society* I am for ever banished. He had always kept himself reserved, and rather aloof from society at home, and, for the first time, he now learned that without society his life would be miserable. On the succeeding day he commenced his *felling operations*, but he soon saw, or thought he saw, that it would not do ; and therefore he and a young man, with whom he had intended to cultivate the soil, determined to abandon their scheme, and to return to Scotland. They acted almost immediately upon this resolution, and, having informed his friend of this determination, they left the scene of their disappointed hopes, and retraced their steps to Vevay.

Taking possession of the old ark, they navigated the Ohio down to Jeffersonville, preferring this route to returning by the way of Cincinnati and Pittsburgh, from the impossibility of their navigating up the river, and the season being too far advanced for travelling by land. They hoped to find employment and wages to work as boatmen in some of the provision boats from the Falls to Natchez, but they found, on their arrival at Jeffersonville, that none were wanted ; they therefore agreed to work for their passage, *without wages*, and, having crossed the falls of Ohio, they arrived at Natchez in January, 1821.

During the voyage down he noted few remarks. Occasionally he saw in the evenings a few solitary groupings of Indians on the river side walking round their fires—with a vacant manner, and in solemn silence, they paced the round, following each other in slow succession, leaving the impression on the mind of the observer that they thought little and spoke less. On one occasion, when Wilson was left alone in charge of the boat, the captain and rest of the crew having for some purpose gone on shore, a party of these Indians came on board. He was somewhat afraid, and stood in the Companion door, in hope that they would proceed no farther than the deck. Each was armed with a musket and a knife, hung by the girdle or belt; they proceeded to the place where he stood, edged him aside, and, as the chief passed him, in descending to the cabin, he gave a scowling look, and, laying his hand upon the handle of his knife, made as if he would draw it forth—Wilson's heart, as he said himself, "leaped to his mouth." The Indians passed into the cabin, and, as they took and tasted spirits, he heard them utter "sweet, sweet." The captain and crew returned, and the poor Indians were ejected with as much ease as they had made their entry. The captain seemed aware that a few rough words were quite sufficient to frighten them away.

At Natchez Mr. Wilson left his companion, who was a house carpenter: high wages tempted him to remain in that unhealthy soil. Mr. Wilson could also have found employment, but he preferred returning home; and he accordingly applied for leave to work his passage to New Orleans in a steam-boat. This was readily granted; but when he saw the men with whom he would be obliged to associate, scanty as were his funds, he preferred

paying for a deck passage—this cost him £1. 2s. 6d.; in addition to which he had also to render some assistance in working on board.

On the 28th of January he left Natchez in the *Columbus* steamer, and arrived at *New Orleans* on the 31st of the same month. On the 7th of February he left Orleans, in the ship *Franklin*, of *Baltimore*, for Liverpool, where he arrived on March 22nd; and he reached Edinburgh, by way of Glasgow, on the 30th of the same month; thus performing a journey by land and water of little short of 11,000 miles in little more than seven months; and his whole expenses amounted to £32. 18s. 10d. including passage money out and home.

Immediately on his arrival he waited on Mr. M'Lean, and found that his place in the warehouse had not yet been supplied; his old landlady, with whom he had lodged for several years, fearful of getting a person she might not be comfortable with, had not let his room, so that on April 5th he again resumed his place in the warehouse of Mr. M'Lean, and also took possession of his old lodgings. The dream was ended, and he found himself, much to his satisfaction, in his old quarters. But, before proceeding farther, I will give some extracts from his own letters to illustrate this part of his history.

On his arrival at Liverpool he thus writes to his mother:—

“On the 23d of October last I wrote you stating my safe arrival in America, and now your fickle-minded son has to inform you that he has re-crossed the ocean, and is in old England.

“You will feel no doubt curious to have some account of my brief stay among the ‘*Yankies*,’ and my reasons

for such a hasty retreat from among them. In attempting to satisfy you, I must commence where I left off in my former letter, which was written from Philadelphia. In that city I remained four days, during which time I was busily employed in preparing for the journey backwards. Accordingly, every thing being in readiness, we commenced our journey on the 26th of October, which proved very tedious; for, in consequence of Mr. ———'s children, twenty miles a day was the utmost we could accomplish. It was therefore the 12th of November ere we reached Pittsburgh, a distance of 300 miles.

“The next object of attention was to procure some conveyance down the river. Upon deliberating, it was found that the cheapest mode, and most adapted to our purpose, was to purchase what in that country is called an *ark*, but which, in plain English, is neither more nor less than a shed erected upon a raft of wood, twenty-four feet long by twelve feet wide, made water tight below, and for a foot above the surface of the water. Having procured an ark to our mind, five men, two women, and five children, with our luggage, were stowed into the curious-looking machine; and, on the 15th of November, we commenced our voyage down the Ohio. In fourteen days, by dint of rowing night and day, we reached Cincinnati, the capital of the western country, a distance of 500 miles from Pittsburgh. Here Mr. ——— met his brother. After staying there eleven days, we again got under weigh with a large cargo of necessaries, and the following evening arrived at a small town, named Vevay, about sixty miles below Cincinnati. The point of our destination lying about ten miles back from this place, the floating machine was here unloaded, and

the luggage placed in a cellar, till a convenient opportunity should occur for removing it.

"We remained at Vevay two days, and then proceeded onwards. By this time a young man, with whom I was to act in concert, a house carpenter by trade, and who had left Scotland with us, had lost conceit, not only of *farming*, but also of the *country*, and longed after home: this circumstance, without taking others into account, rendered my project of becoming farmer impracticable. Thus situated I had no other choice left me but either to become a common labourer, or to return to Scotland. Not thinking myself quite reduced to the necessity of having recourse to the former, I determined to try the practicability of the latter.

"We left on the 19th of December, re-embarked once more in the old ark, and in two days and a half reached the town of Jeffersonville. We started thence on the 22d of the same month, and, on the 21st of January, arrived at Natchez, a distance of 1200 miles. Here my companion left me, having been offered high wages to work at his own business. I myself had offer of the situation of overseer, or, in more plain language, *negro driver*, on the plantation of Major Milligan, with a salary of 300 dollars and bed and board; but I would as soon accept the situation of *hangman*: the one situation I think is as degrading as the other; but, if I had had the offer of a situation to my mind, I would not have remained in that part of America; for, independent of its being full of slaves and negroes, it is one of the most unhealthy places under the sun. While here, I had the good fortune to sell my fowling-piece and some of my clothes for cash, which, with a few guineas

I had by me, enabled me to provide for my passage home."

In a subsequent letter to the principal settler, with whom he had emigrated, he enters more fully into detail, as follows:—

"Several months have now elapsed since I interrupted you in the midst of your first essay at masonry, when, without square or plumb-line, you were proceeding, under the guidance of the great mother of invention, in the erection of a part of architecture indispensably necessary in our frigid regions, and which cannot even be dispensed with in the more genial clime of Indiana, namely, a chimney, with the intimation of my intention of retracing my steps to old Scotia.

"It was on Tuesday, the 19th of December, that, having buckled on my knapsack, and bade you adieu, I, along with my companion in travel, commenced my retrograde movement.

"It was our fixed intention, at the time of leaving you, to have proceeded on to Cincinnati; and not till we were within a mile or two of Vevay did we think of altering our plan. The state of the roads, however, determined us in favour of the plan we adopted; for on account of the thaw, which commenced the day we left, the roads were rendered almost impassable. In addition, it occurred to us that, from the lateness of the season, there was a probability of being unsuccessful in the plan of disposing of ourselves at Cincinnati, upon which we had reckoned; which was to hire ourselves as boatmen on board one or other of the flats proceeding on to New Orleans.

“ Our next best plan being to go down to Louisville or Jeffersonville, where boats must make a halt to receive pilots, to conduct them through the falls, the *old shed*, in which we descended the river, which an *Ohio navigator* dignifies with the name of a *boat*, presented us with the means of carrying this design into execution.

“ I should here say something in mitigation of our piratical conduct, in taking away the old *ark* without previously giving notice ; but all I can say is, that when we parted with you we had not the smallest intention of doing so ; and not deeming the matter of such importance as to detain ourselves probably two or three days, ere we could communicate with you on the business, we wrote acquainting you with our intentions, and stating our willingness to become your debtors for whatever you conceived yourself a loser by the affair. But I *guess* the only use it would ever have been appropriated to would have been firewood, for which purpose we sold it at Jeffersonville, for the sum of two dollars. You should have me credited, although not on paper, at least in your own mind, for many services ; for I was always your ready and willing assistant : you may therefore balance that part of my account, ‘ to *boat* and *skillet*.’

“ At this place we found all the boats provided with their full complement of hands ; we were therefore under the necessity of engaging to work our passage ; accordingly we joined ourselves to four jolly farmers who were transporting their produce to market, from whom we experienced great kindness. On the 22d of December we crossed the falls, and after a succession of sunshine, rain, snow, wind, and such like commonplace occurrences, arrived all well at Natchez.

"At this place my companion, being offered good wages, remained. I could also have procured employment a little way above Natchez, as overseer on a cotton plantation, but declined. A remark made by the gentleman desirous of engaging me, would have determined me against making that part of America my residence, even had the fact referred to escaped my own observation. He was complaining of being poorly in health, and said, 'When I first came to this country I was stout and healthy, but I have been twenty years here, and that is enough to kill any living thing except an *alligator*.'

"But to resume. Having staid eight days at Natchez, I took my passage on board a steam-boat, bound for New Orleans. I thought that sometimes I had been pretty toughly wrought on board the old *ark*, and afterwards in the *flat*, but the steam-boat crowned all; for during the voyage, which occupied three days and nights, I had to assist twice every twenty-four hours in carrying in wood, and also in rolling in cotton bales, which we received at the plantations as we passed along. At night, for a mattress I had to pick me out the softest plank of the deck, the sappiest chunk of wood for a pillow, and with my cloak wrapped round me, and the spacious heaven for a canopy, I slept unrocked.

"In New Orleans I spent seven days, during which time I amused myself by strolling through the town, observing its buildings, and the manners and customs of its inhabitants, which are chiefly French, and so is the language: almost all sign-boards and placards are printed in French, with an English translation.

"The ground on which the city stands is a swamp, and cannot be otherwise, as it is below the level of the

ordinary run of the river, and is only rendered habitable by means of artificial embankments. No person could make that quarter the place of his residence from any other principle than the love of gain, and it is certainly most admirably situated for the attainment of this object. The summer previous to my being there the sickness had proved very mortal. I was informed that about 4000 persons had been carried off by it. I visited the church-yard—a very extensive piece of ground, which actually had, even at that time, the appearance of a well-ploughed field. The engineer of the steam-boat, an Englishman newly arrived in these parts, informed me that a month or two previous, on visiting the same place, he saw a great number of newly-opened graves, and the grave-diggers preparing others. He accosted one of them, a negro, with the question, who the grave was for? His answer was, ‘Massa, me no can tell that; may be it for you, Massa.’ ‘What,’ replied he, ‘do you make graves for people before they are dead?’ ‘That we do, Massa, or else the dead would out-run us.’

“Notwithstanding death stalks so triumphantly among them, pleasure and business seem their only care. The first day of the week, which we sober Northerners devote to religious exercises, is by the Orleanians employed in obliterating any faint traces that remain of the spirit of devotion; the shops are all open, and business transacted the same as during the week; in the forenoon they hold their principal weekly market; and in the afternoon the negroes, having their liberty, meet in a green appropriated for the purpose, where they amuse themselves until dark with singing and dancing. In the evening the theatres are all open, also

the assembly rooms for balls, and gambling houses without number.

“From this brief outline, you may form some opinion of the state of the morals of such a place: yet, if I may be allowed to draw a general conclusion from a particular circumstance, I should be inclined to think that dishonesty is a crime of which they are not very guilty. I refer to the door of the room in which I slept, which opened into the street, being always left unlocked, and frequently half open, (glass folding doors are almost the only kind in use there.) This I did not at all relish; but, being only one of *six* who slept in the same apartment, I thought it best to take no notice of it, especially as, from the silence of the others on the subject, it appeared to be a thing to which they were quite accustomed. In this room stood my luggage, and also the trunks and portmanteaus of the other boarders; yet, notwithstanding the facility with which articles might have been abstracted, I never missed any thing, nor did I hear that others had sustained any loss.

“But if the ease with which employment is procured, and the high price of labour, place them above the temptation to dishonesty, the same fulness seems to be the fruitful cause of the drunkenness and glaring licentious debauchery which prevails, and which often tends to the most fatal consequences. Murders occasioned by drunken brawls are of frequent occurrence; two or three happened during the time I was there, and they seemed to excite no degree of astonishment;—they were adverted to as things which, being common-place, had ceased to be subjects of wonder.

“But I dare say you are as heartily tired of my long palaver about New Orleans as I was of the place itself;

so I will have done, and briefly inform you that on February 7th I went on board the ship Franklin of Baltimore, bound for Liverpool, where, after a stormy yet favourable passage, I arrived on March 22nd, and in eight days more was traversing the streets of '*Auld Reekie*.'

"You can easily form a conjecture as to the questions which through curiosity or interest have been proposed to me.

"I have generally replied that an emigrant to the backwoods should possess peculiar qualities both of body and mind, otherwise there is every chance of his regretting the change. His frame should not only be calculated to bear fatigue, but in some measure, at least, should have been previously accustomed to it. His mind, with a primitive contentedness, which aspires not above the mere necessities of life, should be tinctured with a species of romantic enthusiasm, or that heat of imagination and elevation of idea which will enable him to take distant views, and forget the inconveniences of his present situation in the contemplation of the advantages which his children, and children's children, will reap from the step which he has taken."

Again, in writing to a young friend who seems to have heard of his return, and to have passed some jocular remarks upon his short residence, he says,

"I know you are anxious to hear the reasons that have led to such a wonderful revolution in my mind so as to induce me to make such a short stay in the western *Paradise*! In attempting to satisfy you, I may premise that the greatest revolution in the moral and political worlds have frequently arisen from comparatively con-

temptible beginnings; or, at least, their causes have often been so latent as entirely to elude even the microscopic eye of the minute investigating philosopher. It surely will not appear *particularly new*, if I assert, further, that the same remark may be applied to the most important of our actions as individuals: at least I have experienced it so. But, before telling you what it was that operated so powerfully on my mind so as to determine me to retrace my steps, I will tell you what it *was not*. It was not that I was disappointed by seeing that, in the process of clearing land, sweat was extracted from the brow; for never in the most soaring flight of fancy did it occur to me, that trees were to be plucked up without hands or feet! by simply wishing it; though between you and me, I found that there was more *leger-demain* than those, who have never tried it, would be apt to imagine; for I have actually seen a boy of 16 or 17, by slight of hand, do more in an hour than a man six feet high and strong in proportion, unaccustomed to such work, could do in a day.

“Know then that *you* are partly to blame for my return; yes, you contributed your share to that magnetic influence which has attracted me towards home. To speak plainly, I had not been long immured in the woods before it became evident that, if I concluded to remain there, a sacrifice must be made of society, and every means of instruction, religious and moral. It was then that feelings, long dormant, began to discover themselves and demand attention;—it was then that I began to reflect on the many valuable friends, and inestimable privileges, that had been forsaken. Every step I made in the woods convinced me that man is made for society, and without it he cannot be happy, did he possess the riches of the Indies,

“Solitude, however some may rave,
 Seeming a sanctuary, proves a grave;
 A sepulchre in which the living lie,
 Where all good qualities grow sick and die.”

“It was under these, and other convictions, that I determined on a retrograde movement; and through the good providence of God I have again been favoured to behold my native country. I had no sooner arrived, than I stepped into my old situation—into my old lodgings—and even into my old *slippers*, so that I have enough to do to convince myself, that it has not been all a dream. But methinks, I hear you exclaim, ‘Ah Wilson! this will not last long;—I am too well acquainted with your restless disposition to wonder if the next accounts of you are that you are setting off for South America.’ All I shall add at present is, write me soon, and let me hear your news, lest I should take a notion to cross the line in haste.”

It appears from any thing we have seen in these extracts, and also from his own acknowledgement, that the religion of Jesus occupied but a small share of his attention during his periginations, and it is doubtful whether he ever was in a place of worship. He took no religious books with him but the Bible; having for some time previously determined to consult no other authority in matters of religion.

There can be no doubt that during the whole of this period the divine life was at a very low ebb with him, and that he was in the fearful state of one who forgets God, and who appears forgotten of Him. But a brighter day was yet awaiting him.

The subject of our Memoir being again settled in Edinburgh, resumed his old habits and his old studies.

He soon was led to see, and feel, that he had been leaving a *substance* in pursuing a *shadow*, both in a temporal and spiritual point of view ; he found that he must return with redoubled vigour to the study of the Bible ; not as a thing which he might or might not attend to, but as a matter in which were involved his most important interests for time and for eternity. He read—and considered—and conversed on the theme of the Christian joy and rejoicing—“ Christ crucified ;” and as he thus engaged his mind, he felt how grievously he had erred in seeking and expecting happiness from any other than the *one source*. But the gospel spoke peace to him as it does to *all* who *believe it* ; and as he was now anxious to make a public profession of Christianity, he felt it his duty to enquire what church he should join. Had he consulted his own *feelings*, he said, he should have joined the church of Scotland, for this simple reason, that there he could have taken his place on the Lord’s day unnoticed and unknown ; but he had a higher authority to obey than any feeling of his own,—even although that feeling originated in the retiring modesty of his disposition. He read that the Kingdom of God is not of this world ;—and being fully persuaded in his own mind, from the Scriptures, that the Church of Christ should be composed of those, and those only, who appear and profess to have tasted that the Lord is gracious, and that it is the duty of adult believers to be baptised in the name of Jesus, he saw it his duty to make application for admission to the church in Elder Street, under the pastoral care of Mr. W. Innes. Here he was joyfully received, and while he continued in this country his brethren in that church, who knew him, can tell how much he was esteemed and beloved. He was *intimately*

known to *few*; for he always thought little of himself, and Modesty, although she retains her friends, is long in finding them. While in this church he made much progress in knowledge, especially in that kind of knowledge whose fruits are simplicity and devotedness to God. Deeply he felt his own unworthiness; fully was he convinced that *hopes* founded upon earthly things must perish with those things—and without expressing the strength and fervency of his feelings, it was evident that his heart was imbued with the love of the Saviour, and that his spirit held communion on high. He delighted in associating with the few of his brethren to whom he was intimately known. He loved them all; and was a strict observer of the apostolic injunction—“forsake not the assembling of yourselves together,” for he was always found in his place in the church. Thus he pursued the noiseless tenor of his way till the end of 1823, or early in 1824, when he left the service of Mr. M'Lean, who was about to retire from business, and who after ten or twelve years' experience of his character under his own eye in the warehouse pronounced him a faithful servant, and a worthy man. On leaving Mr. M'Lean he entered into the service of Messrs. Yule and Abernethy, Drapers in Edinburgh; and possibly he might have continued there, but another incident occurred which changed the current of his life, and impelled him forward to new pursuits, and to a new field of exertion.

A friend, with whom he had long been on terms of the most intimate and affectionate friendship, had some thoughts of proceeding with his family to Guatemala, the capital of central America, on the commercial business of a mercantile house in London, and jocularly asked

him one day what he thought of another trip to America. His friend detailed his plans, and ended by saying that perhaps they might be instrumental in forwarding the cause of the Bible and general education in a superstitious country but little known to Europeans. Mr. W. replied that he had not thought about it, but perhaps he would not have many objections. This proposed journey was frequently the theme of conversation when he visited his friend's house, and at last he said that as he should go out now under very different circumstances from his former, he would go, if there was an opening for him;—this was procured, and thus he again determined to cross the Atlantic.

This was in the early part of 1824. In June of the same year he changed his mind, by the persuasion of friends, and determined to remain at home; which determination he immediately communicated to his friend. No more was thought or said about his going—and no interruption took place in the harmony of their friendship and conversation. This friend was to leave Scotland for London in October; in August, to his surprise, he received the following letter from Mr. Wilson, which will best explain his second determination to accompany him at all hazards.

“Edinburgh, 20th August, 1824.

“My Dear Friend,

“After the sanguine and seemingly decided manner in which I expressed myself upon first opening my mind to you about Spanish America, you may easily conceive that I cannot bid adieu to the subject without casting one ‘longing lingering look behind.’—Believe me the desire to accompany you has sometimes such hold of my mind, that were you just unmooring, and the unfurled

sails fluttering in the wind, I would willingly jump on board and share your fortunes. But this savours of romance; what does calm reflection say?—"You are here toiling for a bare subsistence with very little prospect of bettering your circumstances,—an offer has been made you, in accepting which you will gratify a friend—and there is every probability that it may prove advantageous to yourself. At all events you can lose nothing by the trial. You will have a pleasant trip; you will acquire business habits, and business knowledge; and in the company of those who have tasted that the Lord is gracious, may you not reckon on an increase of spiritual knowledge? You believe the climate congenial to health—you know what is connected with a long sea voyage, and inland journey—these do not appal you; and should you wish to return, provision is made to bring you back, and, in this case, if you faithfully fulfil your engagements, what cause is there to fear, that a situation, at least as good as the one you presently occupy, may not be procured?" This, my dear friend, is an unvarnished transcript of my cogitations, and this is my fixed determination, (nothing *very extraordinary* occurring to alter it,) *I will accompany you to Guatemala*, provided you still entertain the same view of my being useful to you, and have not procured another to fill the place intended for me.

"It may probably be expected, that I offer a few words in explanation of the seeming versatility I have displayed in this affair. Accept the following. When I first turned my mind to the subject, I viewed it merely in the light of mercantile speculation; but when I began to reflect, that the character of the missionary should be combined with that of the merchant, my mind, under a

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consciousness of inability to sustain it, shrunk from the thought. The decided way, however, in which you have repeatedly expressed yourself in regard to my ability to be useful, has gone so far to dispel my forebodings to the contrary, as to induce me to come to the resolution I have expressed. Requesting the favour of a reply, I remain, my dear friend, &c."

After the receipt of this letter, matters were soon arranged. His friend, who had long entertained for him the affection of a brother, proceeded to London in October following, there to remain for six or twelve months, at which time Mr. Wilson was to join him, and then they were to proceed to the central states together.

Men may plan, but they cannot always execute. It happened in the course of an inscrutable providence, that his friend never left London: and ere the year 1824 had closed, Mr. Wilson was on his voyage outward for Guatemala. It was found desirable, on the arrival of his friend in London, that Mr. Wilson should accompany a gentleman who was about to embark for Guatemala on the business of the house, and to prepare the way for future operations; as by this means he would acquire a fund of knowledge and experience, which would ultimately be of essential service. There was no expectation that he could be ready in time, as it was now the second week in November, and the ship was to sail in ten days: he was written to, however, by his friend, who at the same time recommended him to remain at home till they went together, unless he judged differently himself. He did judge differently; and having applied to his employers, Messrs. Yule and Abernethy, they kindly on their part permitted him to go at this short

notice, and to their own inconvenience: not, however, without first requesting him to remain in their service, and holding up to him an increase of salary as an inducement. This was creditable to themselves and to his character.

He had scarcely time to bid his friends in the church farewell. The following letter from one of the deacons will show the estimation in which he was held.

“Edinburgh; 13th November, 1824.”

“My Dear Sir,

“I regret my having had no idea till within these few minutes of your being to leave this so soon, for I understand you go this evening, and that I shall not now have an opportunity of seeing you before you go. I observed you last night with the church as we were parting, but lost sight of you ere I could speak with you. Well—we may not meet again below; but how delightful is the thought that the gladdening truths we were reminded of by our beloved brother Cowie, will assuredly not only gladden us while below—even under sorrows and trials (“as sorrowful yet always rejoicing”); but will guide us so as to meet again above before Him, in whose presence there is fulness of joy, and at whose right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

“Your absence will, to me, and I doubt not to others, cause a blank; for such I shall feel the removal of an example I have long remarked of modesty and propriety of conduct—an example by which, as I trust, the word of life has been held forth. This blessed word, I fondly hope, will increasingly be your delightful study with earnest prayer to the Father of Lights; and then I rejoice to know you cannot help holding it forth, and grow-

ing in humility, as well as in happiness, so that the welfare of all around you shall be most effectually promoted.

“ I shall feel not a little interest in your subsequent welfare and proceedings, and should be much gratified by your writing me when you have leisure.

“ I earnestly commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to keep you from falling, and to give you an inheritance among them that are ‘ before the throne.’ ”

He finally left Edinburgh on the 15th of November, and arrived in London on the 21st. After spending eight days in the metropolis, he embarked at Gravesend on the 29th of November, on board the brig William, bound for Madeira and Carthagena: it being his intention to remain at Madeira till the arrival of the Recovery there from Clyde, with which vessel he was to proceed to Honduras, and there wait the arrival of the gentleman under whom he was to act, and who had first to visit Carthagena and Jamaica with the vessel in which they had embarked.

Having proceeded thus far, I must now in a great measure confine myself to extracts from his own letters and journal, and I am persuaded the perusal will excite more interest and communicate greater pleasure than any thing I could say.

“ Mouth of the Thames, on board the William,
December 1, 1824.

“ My much loved friend,

“ As I understand the pilot is about to leave us, I embrace the opportunity of handing you a few lines.

"We got under weigh yesterday afternoon about five o'clock; but it blew so fresh, that the pilot judged it prudent, after proceeding a few miles, again to come to an anchor. About seven this morning the sails were once more unfurled. It is now half-past twelve; we are doubling the North Foreland, and gliding delightfully along with square yards, at the rate of eight or nine knots an hour. If this wind continues, in a short time my beloved native isle will be lost in the distant horizon.

"I leave my native shores with very different feelings from those which influenced me at a former period. *Then* I was a stranger to the delightful sensations of Christian friendship; my mind was the seat of discontent, and I was eagerly seeking a portion in those things that perish with the using. Now I trust I love the people of God for the image of Christ which they bear; and I hope I have in a measure been enabled to look above the world and its perishing vanities, and to seek a portion in those things which are above: for in the presence of God there is fulness of joy; and at his right hand there are pleasures for evermore. Remember me at a throne of grace, my dear friend; pray for me, that I may be preserved from all the dangers, both of a temporal and spiritual kind, to which I may be exposed, and that I may be enabled daily to take up the cross and follow Jesus—yea, to glory in even being esteemed a fool for Christ's sake. I have not time to enlarge, but shall embrace the earliest opportunity of writing you. Give my most affectionate respects to your family. Adieu! That God may cause each of your souls to prosper and be in health, and that he may grant

you all that is necessary for your comfort in this life, is the prayer of your affectionate friend,

JAMES WILSON."

" *December 5th, 1824.*—Having reached the Lizard, steered a south-west course, and on Monday, the 6th, came in sight of the island of Ushant. On Friday, the 10th, made Cape Finisterre. This truly is a meagre outline; but, unless from an individual endowed with a lively and poetic imagination, the detail of a voyage would possess all the insipidity of a ship's log book. Such a day, winds from such a quarter—light and variable:—another—strong gales from such a direction—carried away jib boom—in top gallant sails, and close reefed topsails. Probably, a third might be enlivened by having spoke the ship—, in latitude —, out — days from —, bound to —, &c.

" In what glowing colours does fancy paint the pleasures to be derived on the face of the great deep!

" An individual has probably for a little recreation, on a fine summer's day, crossed a frith; or, in a steam boat, has glided along its smooth surface, a distance of thirty or forty miles. Or, it may be, he has even dared, in the season most favourable for such an undertaking, to venture along the coast even hundreds of miles: he has been highly gratified, it may be, by the varied scenery which he has witnessed, and delighted with the gentle zephyrs which have impelled his bark; consequently his ideas of voyaging are all of an agreeable nature; and, if the probability of, now and then, hearing, amid the rending tackle's roar, the spirit of an equinoctial gale be admitted into the calculation, this

would serve to heighten the interest, when admiring friends gather round, and wonder at the tale of this ‘Rover of the Deep.’

“He, however, who speaks from experience, and with sincerity, will not express himself so as to make any one long to traverse an extensive track of ocean. Sickness for the first three or four days, and nausea for as many more, is what may be generally calculated upon: and even when this ordeal has been passed, they ‘reckon without their host,’ who suppose, that the remainder of the voyage presents a favourable opportunity for mental improvement. There is no such thing as quietness or privacy, but, on the contrary, a continual uninteresting bustle, produced by the squaring or bracing of yards, reefing or handing sails, &c. This, with lassitude, and an otherwise uncomfortable state of body—the effect of too little exercise—joined to want of proper circulation of air between decks—an inability to pay that attention to cleanliness, which is so necessary both for health and comfort—the constant tumbling and jerking of the vessel, with the absence of a thousand little items necessary to make up what is termed comfort; all tend to fret and irritate the mind, and to produce such dissipation of ideas, as renders it difficult to direct the attention to any thing which requires application.

“*Thursday, December 16th, 1824.*—We were cheered with the sight of land, which as we expected, was *Santo Porto*, one of the *Madeira Islands*. In a few minutes more we discovered, south of *Santo Porto*, the two islands named the *Deserters*; and next was seen towering amidst the clouds the pile of mountains properly called *Madeira*. As we approached its rocky perpendicular shores, they

seemed to scowl defiance, and to forbid every attempt at landing ; but on rounding the south east point of the island (‘ Brasen nose point’) we discovered the beautiful semicircular bay of *Funchal*, on which is situated the town of the same name. In consequence of the houses here, with few exceptions, being whitewashed on the outside, their appearance at a distance is very singular. From the bird’s eye view which I first got of the town, I concluded it was a flock of sheep ; as the distance gradually lessened, my next conjecture was, that it must be a church-yard, filled with marble slabs ; and this latter conjecture soon gave place to the idea, that the base and sides of the mountain must certainly be covered with large blocks of chalk. A few hours, however, put an end to conjecture, and presented before us the extremely picturesque and lively looking town of *Funchal*, the capital of Madeira.

“ This place occupies the whole extent of the bay, and is situated at the bottom of lofty mountains, that seem to rise precipitately from the very water’s edge, and which hide their aspiring tops in the clouds. But the scene far exceeds my feeble powers of description ; and I must dismiss it, for the present, by adding, that the scenery is as bold and romantic as any I have seen.

“ Owing to light winds, it was late in the evening before we reached the anchorage ground ; and as we were preparing to let go the anchor, a gun was fired from the ‘ *Loo Fort*,’ as a signal to keep to sea : it being contrary to the regulations of the Port for any vessel either to come to an anchor, or to get under weigh after sunset, or before sunrise. We were therefore under the necessity of standing ‘ off and on,’ as seamen term it, during the night. As soon as day began to break, we again

stood in for land, and by eleven o'clock were safely moored abreast of the town, about a mile from the beach.

"In about an hour afterwards, we were officially visited by a boat from the *Fort*, and another from the health office; previous to this visitation no vessel is allowed to have any communication with the shore.

"In consequence of not having a '*bill of health*,' it was about five o'clock before we received permission to land. Whilst the ship's boat was preparing for this purpose, we were surrounded with the native boatmen, each clamouring louder than the other for the *honour*, (at least it might have been supposed so from their scraping and bowing,) of pulling us on shore. But, although they had English enough to make us know what they meant, yet they appeared amazingly averse to understand, either by speech or signs, our intention of going on shore in the boat belonging to the ship: one of them, however, asserting that he was sent by *Senhores Gordon, Duff and Co.* to attend the vessel, we ended the uproar by jumping into his boat. We had not proceeded many yards, when we were met by another boat; the crew of which stated, that they came on a similar errand, and sanctioned by the same authority. But as our object was simply to get on shore, we left it to themselves to settle which side truth belonged to. This they immediately set about, but being unacquainted with the Portuguese language, I am unable to offer an opinion on the merits of the case. From the vehemence of their clamour, and the violence of their gesticulation, I felt not a little pleased, that we were at least the length of the oars from each other. I have heard it asserted, that the Portuguese are in the habit of carrying knives

concealed about their persons, to the use of which, it is alleged, they are not at all backward. But I may just note, in passing, that, as far as regards the inhabitants of Madeira, I believe this to be an unjust accusation.

“ We had been partly induced to give up our intention of going on shore in the ship’s boat, from a desire to get quit of the clamour of the boatmen ; but we soon perceived that we had, without intending it, adopted the most advisable way of landing in the bay of Funchal ; for, owing to the heavy surge, which, even in moderate weather, continually breaks upon the beach, it requires no little experience, skill, and activity, to run the boat on shore without being upset. Indeed, it is evident, from the construction of their boats, that this is an accident of frequent occurrence ; there being, at the bow and stern of their boats, a beam of wood elevated about a foot and a half above the gunwale, which is intended to facilitate the escape of individuals from underneath the boat, in the event of its being capsised.

“ When I landed in America, the idea of being in a foreign country did not strike me with half the force that it did on landing in Madeira. In the former place, the language, the dress, the manners were in a great measure English : in the latter, I had no sooner set my foot on shore, than I was reminded that I was from home. The dark swarthy complexion of the inhabitants—their peculiar dress—their strange manners, and the undistinguished sounds with which my ears were saluted, soon reminded me, that I had left far behind ‘ our dear native isle of the ocean.’

“ Those whose feet have never wandered from their native shores, though they in some measure may con-

ceive, yet are unable fully to realize, the feelings which are excited in the bosom of the traveller, when his ears are unexpectedly saluted with the accents of his native tongue.

‘ The language of Scotia is sweet ’midst the scene,
But ah ! could you hear it when seas roll between.’

“ These feelings I fully experienced, when I saw the jolly face, and heard the kindly welcome of Mr. ———, who was on the beach to receive us ; and who courteously invited us to dine with him, and to make his house our home for the evening.

“ In passing along the lane-like streets of Funchal, there is little danger of forming too extravagant expectations in regard to the interior of the houses which compose them. Nay, such in general is the mean appearance of their exterior, that one is apt to run into the opposite extreme. To this, I believe, is to be attributed, in a great measure, the surprise which is experienced on first entering the dwellings of the wealthier classes. The rooms, from their large size, and the theatrical appearance, in some instances, of their furniture and decorations, exhibit an air of princely grandeur which is very imposing. The sombre effect also which is produced by the narrowness of the streets, together with the amazing extent of the buildings, some of which form a square not unlike that of Holyrood House in Scotland, tend to inspire the mind with a degree of romantic feeling, and to awaken the reminiscence of that period of life, when the legendary tale of ‘light-heeled ghosts’ and visionary shades, rivetted attention, and filled the mind with palpitating interest. One of these houses belonging to a Mr. ———, might serve as a residence

for a king : it is reported to contain, besides other apartments, no less than forty furnished bed rooms.

“ Were a person, who has never visited Madeira, to peruse these remarks, he might naturally enough conclude, notwithstanding the hint which has been dropt about lane-like streets, that Funchal must be a very smart looking place. This, however, is far from the truth ; for although here and there the effect of English capital, and English taste is visible, yet the houses in general have but a mean appearance.

“ A person who forms his idea of the shops, for instance, from those which he has been accustomed to see in Britain, would be particularly struck at not seeing any that have the least appearance of respectability. In almost every street numbers of mean, dirty, cellar-like places are to be met with, which are evidently used as places of traffic ; still it is concluded these must be, at best, only fourth or fifth-rate. One street is therefore traversed after another, and at every turn expectation is on the tip-toe ; but it is in vain to look. The principal shops, as it regards exterior, are much upon a par with the meanest of those which are to be seen, for example, in streets such as the Cowgate, and West Port of Edinburgh. There are two or three apothecaries’ shops, however, which, contrasted with the others, may even be called neat. Another exception is the shop of a Mr. Paine, a baker, lately from England, which is fitted up in true English style. Its ample window, I am told, as well, no doubt, as the variety of fancy breads with which it is adorned, seemed at first, to attract as much notice as a collection of rare and uncommon animals, or the astonishing feats of a rope-dancer might be supposed to do in England. But if the houses cannot be praised on

account of their external appearance, the solidity of their structure certainly merits commendation. They seem mostly built of slate-coloured stone, resembling whinstone; none of the houses are built of hewn stone, but the fronts of some of the churches are got up in this way. The other buildings, although constructed of rough stones, have the doors and windows generally of wrought stone.

“The houses also of the better classes, of modern erection, in general, have the walls, for about four feet above the level of the street, formed of hewn stone. But the houses being all neatly plastered on the outside, the roughness of their construction is not observable. The windows are mostly fitted up with balconies projecting in front, which are both ornamental and useful. The window frames open as folding doors level with the floors.

“Funchal is about a quarter of a mile broad, and about one mile long; its site is comparatively level, but immediately behind the town the ascent is very rapid: notwithstanding this, the mountains almost to the very tops are covered with cottages, vineyards, and gentlemen’s seats.

“The native inhabitants of Funchal are of dark, sallow complexion: the men are strong made and well-proportioned; the women, however, are any thing but engaging in appearance—generally speaking the ladies in Madeira have the fewest attractions of any portion of the sex that I have yet seen. They seem generally small in stature, and are far from being handsome; and there is a stiffness and reserve about them, and an air of languor, which is very observable by one newly imported from England. The dress of the genteeler classes, both men and women,

is English. The dress of the lower orders is peculiar, and combines, I think, both neatness and simplicity. That of the men is a shirt, and a kind of smallclothes; the latter are neatly plaited round the waistband, something like hussar trowsers, the legs very much resemble the sleeve of a shirt, and are fastened close below the knee with a single button; they are fastened close about the loins in a similar way, and worn without braces. I am thus particular in describing the inexpressibles of the Funchalians, from being so struck with their apparent utility in a warm climate. From the knee downwards the leg is covered with a boot made of undressed leather resembling shammy. The conical steeple-like cap which they wear, is among the first things which attract the eye of a stranger: it is exactly like a sugar loaf, with a very sharp peak, and seems to be worn more from custom than from utility, as it merely covers the crown of the head. A jacket, generally thrown over one shoulder, to be used as occasion may require, completes the habiliment.

“The peasantry carry formidable sticks, about five or six feet in length, which serve to assist in ascending and descending the mountains; and having a pike in one end, they are also used as goads for cattle.

“The women wear a petticoat of striped stuff of different colours, something resembling linsey woolsey; they have a shirt made the same as a man's, only with short sleeves, and fastened at the neck with a double gold button, resembling the old-fashioned button which I have seen worn by men in Scotland. The petticoat is strapped over the shoulders; and this part of the body has thrown over it a cloth tippet reaching down to the waist, which is generally of a blue or scarlet colour:

The head is covered with, or rather has stuck upon it, the same sort of conical cap as is worn by the men. The head dress of married women is generally a white handkerchief thrown over the head, a corner flying loose at each side of the face, and another behind; and over this a round beaver hat, which gives them a wild and uncouth-like appearance.

“I have frequently heard the exclamation, in reference to this people, ‘the dirty Portuguese;’ and really they are not libelled in being called so; for not only the lower, but even what may be called the middle ranks, are very filthy, both in their persons and houses. The houses of the lower orders are more like pig sties than the habitations of human beings. The dress of the children of the poorer classes is generally only a shirt; and it is no uncommon sight to see them running about in a state of complete nudity. Indeed, in the hottest months, I am informed the practice is quite common; and it were comparatively trifling if this practice was confined only to children; but all along the beach are to be seen groups of full-grown men entirely naked, and busily engaged conveying goods from the boats. They have no harbours; and consequently, boats have their cargoes taken out by men wading into the water, and carrying the packages on shore on their shoulders. The pipes of wine are thrown overboard out of the boat into the water; the men then strip themselves, jump overboard, and putting their hands to the ends of the casks, swim with their feet, and in this manner pilot their cargo to land.

“The late governor, whose residence was close upon the shore, was induced to issue an order prohibiting this outrage upon decency, and enjoined that some sort

of clothing should be made use of. But this injunction, notwithstanding the sentinels along the beach are enjoined to see it attended to, is but very little regarded.

“Such is the force of habit, that people may get accustomed to any thing. I scarcely expect to be credited by an inhabitant of Britain when I state, that I have actually seen females in the midst of such a scene purchasing vegetables, &c., which are brought by boats from distant parts of the island, and pacing with the utmost coolness amidst this scène of masculine nudity. I even saw an instance, where a female stood and conversed with one of these Hercules's with as much seeming ease and indifference as if he had been clothed from head to foot *à la mode*. I was standing at the time in front of the Custom-house, where were a number of the genteeler class of the inhabitants, who could not but observe it; I looked round and round, and examined every face to see if I could read in any either surprise or disgust, but from the general air of unconcern, it was too evident that it was not the first time such a scene had been witnessed.

“The Portugese here are, as I have already stated, filthy to an extreme. I have seen decent dressed females sitting on the steps of their doors, the head of the one in the lap of the other; and from the operation going forward, a stranger could easily imagine the nature of their occupation. This was no uncommon sight; almost every time I walked abroad, the disgusting scene was witnessed. Their morals are very lax. Notwithstanding all this, they seem a harmless inoffensive class of beings. Politeness seems inherent in their very constitution: it is both pleasing and amusing to see the formality with which they exchange their *congéés*; they

pass each other several paces, with the body inclined, and it appears a point of *etiquette* who shall be the last to replace his cap. They are a religious, though not a pious people. The churches (Roman Catholic) are open from morning till night. The continual jingling of bells, which they keep up, is particularly annoying to a stranger. In my peregrinations, I sometimes stepped into their places of worship; and, at whatever hour, was sure to find some of these mistaken devotees prostrate before their saints, fingering their rosaries, and mumbling the *ave marias*.

“The priests and monks are very numerous; they are to be met with at every step. The dress of the former is very becoming, much resembling the dress worn by the Roman senators, as we see them delineated in paintings, &c. The dress of the latter is somewhat similar; the principal difference is in the one being finically neat, and the other studiously negligent. The monks go bareheaded, and by rights should go barefooted also; but they evade that part of their rules, and content themselves with wearing no stockings.

“I went several times to see the nuns in the convent of Santa Clara. On Christmas eve particularly the scene was very imposing, much resembling some theatrical exhibition. Architecture, sculpture, painting, dress, decoration, music, &c.,—all combine to allure the senses, and to inspire the minds of the ignorant with awe and veneration. The space of the chapel appropriated for the public, is divided by a partition from that occupied by the nuns; but as a grating extends almost from one end to the other of this partition, they are easily seen. I dare say some of them thought me rather impertinent, from my examining their countenances so minutely. I

could learn nothing, however, from that index of the mind ; they moved slowly, and looked like statues. A studied primness and gravity seemed to be the order of the evening.

“The only place of worship not Roman Catholic, is an Episcopalian chapel. This is a very neat building, and is situated in as delightful a spot as can well be imagined. At the time when scarcely a vestige of vegetation is to be seen in Britain, and the icy breezes are whistling among the leafless branches ; here the hedges skirting the avenues to the church were covered with roses, and all around were plants to us of the most rare and beautiful description, tastefully arranged, and the greater part in flower.

“With regard to the weekly ebullitions from the pulpit, they were far from being the style of preaching that I like, although I cannot say that any thing I heard was unscriptural. Yet the discourses were dry ; there was far too little of the Saviour in them ; and there was also a total absence of that manner which indicates, that the heart of the preacher is under deep feelings of the importance of the truths to which he calls the attention of his hearers.

“There is in general but a poor congregation. The English in Madeira are not a church going people ; except it be when there is a new comer of any note, there is but a very partial attendance.

“The total number of British residents in Madeira is estimated at about 300. With very few exceptions they are Scotchmen.

“The lower orders of the inhabitants, so far as I could learn, are in general without any education. But there are now one or two schools established on the

Lancasterian system ; which, it is to be hoped, will be the means of much moral, and let us hope also, of much religious improvement, in the character of the people.

“ I experienced much kindness and attention from Messrs. ———, and was repeatedly invited to take up my abode at their house ; but though I felt grateful to them for the offer, it would not at all have suited my habits and disposition, to have accepted their kind invitation : so I chose rather to fix my quarters at Miss Winter’s boarding house, where I found myself very comfortable, and was at liberty to spend my time as I thought proper. I frequently went out to ride among the mountains, along with some of the merchants, and other respectable individuals, who were residing on the island for the benefit of their health. In these excursions I had no faint specimen of what it must be in crossing the Andes. We had sometimes to leap our ponies from one rock to another ; at one place springing up an inequality—at another, making a similar descent : and, at others, winding round the sides of the mountains along a narrow, rugged path, which did not admit of two riding abreast ; and beneath a precipitous descent of two or three thousand feet. The very idea of a false step of my caballo made the blood run cold.

“ The scenery is grand beyond description. I have seen Loch Lomond, and Loch Katrine ; but the awful grandeur in which nature is arrayed at the ‘ Curral des Frietas,’ the Trosachs of Madeira, eclipses them.

“ Plants, which, in England, are reckoned rare and curious, and some of which are cultivated in green-houses with great care, are to be seen growing wild along the sides of the roads. The aloe, the prickly-pear, the myrtle, the geranium, &c. ; oranges, figs,

lemons, guavas, apples, bananas, the citron, pine apple, and strawberries grow in great abundance; and the whole country may be said to be one continued garden. Indeed the climate of Madeira seems one, in which every vegetable production might be successfully cultivated.

“Gentlemen’s country residences are scattered in all directions; some of which display much taste. One of these, called Palmyra, belonging to a Mr. Blackburn, a wine merchant, is said to have cost 30,000*l.* sterling. Another, called the Palheiro, the property of a native, *Senhorê de Carvalhal*, surpasses any thing I have seen for romantic situation, and is equal to any for taste in the disposition of the pleasure grounds, which are very extensive. Many others also are worthy of note.

“But—Madeira was not my destination; I soon got familiar with all these things, and looked with anxiety for the arrival of the *Brig Recovery*. Among the first things I did in the morning, was to ascend a turret, which rose from the centre of the house, and direct an anxious look towards the *Loo Fort*, in which a small flag was fixed when a vessel was seen making way for the island. The situation of the fort is such, that vessels can be observed from it hours before they can be seen from *Funchal*. Consequently, these signals produce no small sensation throughout the place, till the vessel is seen rounding *Brazen-nose Point*, and there from her colours it is soon known what she is. Many a time the thermometer of my feelings has risen by these signals to summer heat, and as suddenly sunk below the freezing point, when I learnt it was no *Recovery*. It became a sort of standing joke among my friends,—‘*Mr. Wilson, there is no Recovery yet!*’

Thursday, January 27th, 1825.—I ascended the turret as usual. There is a particular part of the fort where the flag is placed when the sail is coming from the westward. A signal was flying in this particular part; but as vessels coming from Britain make the island from the eastward, I concluded she must be an American, and gave myself no further concern. There was no arrival that day. Next morning the signal was still flying, and a vessel could be seen in the distance beating to the windward; it was late in the evening before she reached the bay. I happened to be on the beach next morning just as the visiting officer had returned from on board. I did not think it worth while to trouble him with any questions, supposing the vessel must be from America. He happened, however, to pass close by me, and I enquired her name; ‘the Recovery, Sir,’ was the answer. Still I thought it must be a vessel of the same name as the one I am waiting for, and I allowed him to pass without further remark. Upon second thoughts, I followed him to ascertain whence she came; ‘From Greenock,’ was the reply. Long looked for is come at last, thought I; and hastened to breakfast, &c.

January, 31st, 1825.—Rode out with the captain and passengers of the Recovery to Nassa Senhora de Monte, a church situated about three miles up among the mountains. The scenery from this spot is sublime. Also visited the extensive gardens of Mr. James Gordon, Mr. Webster Gordon, and Mr. Keir.

February 2d, 1825.—Having got all my business finished on shore yesterday, I bade a final adieu to

Funchal, and embarked on board the *Recovery* for Honduras. To-day, were visited by a boat from the fort, and another from the custom house. The object of the first is to see that none leave the island without a pass ; and the other to ascertain that the vessel is properly cleared. Any vessel attempting to leave previous to being thus visited would be fired upon from the fort, and would have to pay a specified sum for the first shot, so much more for the second, and so on, the penalty proportionably increasing for every successive shot.

"The windlass was manned about 9 o'clock ; but, on account of the great depth in which the vessel was anchored, it was 12 o'clock before we were fairly under weigh. We are steering a S. W. course. The wind as favourable as we could wish ; Madeira was visible most part of the afternoon ; lost sight of it, not so much from distance as from a fog, which when viewed from a distance seems to envelop the island.

"*February 10th, 1825.*—Lat. 20. 28. Long. 29. 12. Have been nearly becalmed for the first part of twenty-four hours, ending at 12 o'clock noon. A fine breeze sprung up about four A. M., which continues steady up to the present hour (ten P. M.) Have had the awning up to-day again, which is really a great luxury ; indeed, without it, it would be impossible to remain on deck with any degree of comfort. The captain's thermometer is broken, therefore cannot ascertain with certainty the degree of heat. The captain and crew have been again employed in further preparations in case we should meet with some lawless 'rovers of the deep.' The ramrods, sponges, &c. are slung by the guns ; the shot is upon deck, and the powder horns

hung where they may be conveniently got at. The boarding pikes are also lashed to the spanker boom. Have this afternoon seen a few flying fish; excepting one of the same species caught a few days ago, they are the only fish I have seen since leaving Madeira. Those who have never been at sea are apt to suppose, (and the supposition is natural enough,) that, in a voyage of 5000 or 6000 miles, great numbers of fish of various species would be seen sporting about, tending in some measure to diversify the scene, and to relieve the tediousness of a six weeks or two months confinement on ship board; but it is remarkable how few of the finny tribe are to be observed.

“ February 12th.—Wind ahead part of the day; becalmed the other part. Men employed in cleaning the fire arms. The weather is now getting uncomfortably warm; the sun is oppressive upon deck; and when below one feels as if stewed. O Scotland! how I could relish thy icy breezes.

“ February 18th.—Lat. $16^{\circ} 53'$. Long. $45^{\circ} 32'$. Course west. Have been amused by a species of whale, called by the seamen Bottle Nose. Two of these have been playing round the vessel all this forenoon; their length, I should suppose, is from twenty-five to thirty feet. The weather is most delightful, and we are favoured with a fine steady breeze.

“ February 22nd.—This morning we were informed by the mate, that there was a schooner in sight on the larboard bow. Turned our eyes in that direction and saw a suspicious-looking sail, about two or three miles

distant, and standing right for us. We were led to conclude her a pirate, not only from her general appearance, but from the circumstance of her having two of her sails furled, at a time when a merchant vessel would have been crowding all the canvass she could set, in order to make the most of a favourable breeze. This was the conjecture of a moment; presently the sails were seen fluttering in the wind, and as quickly braced into their proper position. There was not a moment to lose; the captain instantly gave orders to call the watch; a sufficient quantity of ammunition was quickly brought upon deck, and the guns were loaded with all possible expedition. In about fifteen minutes from the issuing orders to prepare, we were all clear for action; and not a minute too soon, as we were within gun-shot. We were all standing to our quarters, ready to let fly upon the first salute from, or suspicious manœuvre of the stranger. She crossed our bows; and no doubt in the act of doing so counted one, two, three, four, five surly-looking English bull dogs showing their teeth through our larboard side; and as they rounded to starboard, she had an opportunity to tell an equal number: true, half the number were *quakers*, alias wooden ones, yet they were so good an imitation as not to be easily distinguished from the real. Whether it was our formidable appearance that frightened her, or whether she was not what, even at a nearer view, we were still inclined to take her for, we were unable to decide; be that as it may, she kept straight on without showing any disposition to communicate with us one way or another.

The captain, however, feeling disposed to know what she was, bore up for her, and hoisted the English

flag ; they still kept on, and showed no colours. This increased our suspicion ; we therefore kept away a little again, and, bringing two of the guns parallel with their beam, let drive, as much as to say, if you are inclined to scold, we can talk with you.

“ We have now lost sight of her, but are not sure but we may have her again towards evening, dogging in our wake.

“ In perusing what I have penned, I perceive the style to be rather light for an event which might have terminated fatally for some, if not for all, of us. But I am far from wishing to show any thing like vain bravado on such an occasion. I feel extremely thankful to Providence, that our fears were not realised : for though quite prepared, and determined to do my duty, yet the interval between issuing the command to prepare for action, until we saw the stranger pass us, was to me an interval of great suspense. I felt as if arrayed in my winding-sheet, not knowing but the first shot might lay me on the deck a breathless corpse. I tried to turn my mind to eternal realities, but felt it, though full of apprehension, dark and stupid, as it regarded spiritual subjects. One impression, however, was made upon my mind, which, O God ! do thou grant may be indelible : namely—that it is of the last importance to embrace every opportunity of spiritual improvement, while it is called *to-day*, and diligently to employ the season of health and strength with which I may be favoured in promoting the glory of God, and my own eternal good.

“ *February 24th.*—About half-past one P. M. we discovered land, which proves to be ‘ Deseada.’ This was the first island which Columbus made in his second

voyage to America; he gave it the name which it now bears, from the impatience of his crew to see land, it signifying 'the Desired.'

"Part of yesterday and to-day, I have been reading Robertson's History of America, and have felt a peculiar degree of interest in it, on account of having just come to the part which relates to the circumstance above-named. I felt a degree of romantic excitement at the idea of being in the same track, and viewing the same objects, which, about 330 years ago, filled the brave and enterprising Columbus with the most grateful sensations. I was the first who observed Deseada, which bore W. S. W. by compass. A few minutes afterward, we descried Antigua, bearing W. and by N. Guadaloupe is nearly west of, and contiguous to, Deseada, but it being rather hazy in that direction, we can scarcely perceive it. It is now within a few minutes of ten P. M.; the wind is very light: indeed, since observing the land, we have been almost becalmed. The moon, however, cheers us with her light, which is very pleasant, when we have, as sailors express it, 'the land aboard.' We have still a view of Antigua, which, although faint, yet is sufficient to regulate our course. I hope the breeze will not freshen before morning, that we may have an opportunity of deliberately viewing the island. The weather is excessively hot; we are scorched upon deck during the day, and stewed during the night; and this notwithstanding the cabin windows are kept open.

"*February 25th.*—Got upon deck this morning at six o'clock, and beheld a most animating scene. We were surrounded with islands. Antigua was seen quite distinct in the back ground, bearing E. by N. Montserrat

bore S. Rodondo, a small uninhabited island, very much resembling the Craig of Ailsa, at the mouth of the Clyde, was close upon our starboard, bearing N. and W. Nevis and St. Kitts, in the distance ahead, bore N. W. A few hours afterwards we caught a glimpse of St. Eustatius.

“About this time, the wind died nearly away, and we made very little progress. We were amply compensated, however, as this afforded us an opportunity of leisurely observing the different islands with which we were encircled.

“Having passed Antigua in the night, at day-light we had left it a considerable distance behind; but Montserrat, Nevis, and St. Kitts we observed more closely. They appeared in a high state of cultivation; crop-time seemed just commencing. We could see a field of cane here and there in the act of being cut down. In general, however, the fields seemed green. We were near enough to Nevis to see the houses, and the wind-mills in motion which are used for grinding the sugar cane. All the West India islands are said to be uncongenial to the health of Europeans; but, had I not been previously aware of this, I should not have inferred it from the general appearance of such of them as I have enumerated. Continually fanned by the sea breezes, and all of them inclining to be mountainous, particularly Nevis and St. Kitts, which hide their lofty heads in the clouds; the inexperienced, from these circumstances, might be apt to think they must be delightful residences.

“We have seen four vessels to-day; but this, which in other circumstances would be very exhilarating, in our present situation, is rather a cause of alarm. The

seas in this quarter are, at present, infested with pirates; and we cannot be sure when we see a vessel, particularly if schooner-rigged, but she may turn out to be one of this description.

*“ February 26th, 1825.—*The wind has continued very favourable since yesterday, and we are rattling away at the rate of seven knots an hour. The captain says we are at present (nine A. M.) off the east end of Porto Rico: it is probable we may have a sight of it to-morrow. However, I have no desire to see land previous to reaching Jamaica. We are in the midst of the piratical nest, and the less we have to do with the land in this quarter the better.

“ We are amused with numerous flocks of birds, which are continually skimming around the ship. It is astonishing how grateful the screaming noise which they make is to the ear. Man delights in variety; and even the simple unvarying note of these sea-fowls, being a sound different from what we have been accustomed to for some weeks, tends to interest us.

*“ February 27th.—*This morning Santa Cruz was observed on the starboard quarter, bearing E. by N. Shortly after, we discovered a vessel on our starboard bow, which excited a little anxiety, as we are now close upon St. Domingo, a noted receptacle of lawless characters. We were scarcely relieved from our alarm, by the disappearance of this vessel, when we descried another, making directly towards us with all the sail she could croud. As she was one of the schooner-rigged craft, of the description made use of by pirates, our apprehensions were again excited. During the interval of suspense,

my thoughts took a flight homewards : it was about ten A. M. The difference of longitude made it then between two and three P. M. in Edinburgh.

“ Those with whom I had often gone to the house of prayer, would then be assembled in peace and quietness, without any cause to dread the turbulent and lawless, and enjoying sweet Christian fellowship in those ordinances which Christ has instituted for the spiritual improvement of his people ; while I have, in a manner, banished myself from these means of grace without any very urgent call for doing so. But, O Lord, thou art not a God confined to temples made with hands—wherever thy poor sinful creatures call upon thee in the name of thy beloved Son Jesus, there wilt thou be found of them.

“ O ! enable me, in all places, and in all circumstances, to realise thy presence, and to commit myself with all my concerns into thy hands ; and do thou, for the sake of Jesus, undertake for me in all things.

“ Our fears are again disappointed ; the vessel stood right across our course without showing any disposition to communicate with us.

“ Deepen, O Lord ! the impressions I have felt of the importance of being *ready*, that when, or in whatever form, the summons of death shall come ; *I may be found watching !*

“ *March 2d.*—At six A. M. abreast of Morant Point, the east end of Jamaica. Jamaica has a very bold appearance, being a collection of hills thickly wooded : one would be apt to imagine from appearances, that, instead of having been occupied for centuries, the island had been but recently discovered.

“ The blue mountains are seen towering amid the clouds, and are said to be 8,000 feet high. Abreast of Port Royal we caught a dolphin, which afforded me an opportunity of witnessing the truth of what I had heard, in regard to the wonderful variety of hues this fish assumes when dying.

“ *March 4th.*—To-day we have caught a king fish, which I have heard stated to be the most delicate of the finny tribe, in this part of the world : it much resembles the salmon in appearance. I was disappointed, however, when I came to taste it ; it was both tough and insipid.

“ *March 6th.*—The evening began to close around us as we caught a glimpse of the island of Rattan. About eight P. M. I had stretched myself out to rest a little ; but had not been laid down many minutes when suddenly the vessel seemed to come violently in contact with something, followed by a noise which could be compared only to running over a reef of rocks. I started up, having no doubt, in my own mind, that this was actually the case. I rushed upon deck, when I found every one in the greatest consternation, and to add to our distress, it was quite dark. I cast a wistful look over the side of the ship to see whether or not she was deepening in the water. Just at this moment, the vessel gave a roll to one side, and I fancied we were to be immediately engulfed. Upon reflection, however, the captain gave it as his opinion, that we could not be amongst rocks, as we were exactly in the track, which is considered the safest in sailing from Jamaica to Honduras ; and he therefore concluded that it must have

been some large log of timber we had come in contact with. But such was the impression to the contrary, that this opinion was slowly given in to.

*“ March 8.—*At daylight, steered in for Half Moon Key, and got sight of it about 9 A.M. On approaching pretty near the shore the wind died away, and we found that we were under the influence of a current, which was gradually carrying us in towards the reef. The ‘Union Jack,’ which is the signal for a pilot, was hoisted at the fore-top-mast, and two guns were successively fired. Shortly afterwards, we were cheered by seeing a canoe paddling towards us; and, in about an hour more, a pilot came on board—a Creole of the country, named Abrahams: the other three, in the Dory, were negroes. At seven P. M. we were safely moored at Key Bokell, at the east end of the swampy land, called Turniff, or Drowned Island.

*“ Wednesday, March 9.—*This morning the wind blew strong from W.N.W., which is completely against us. After dinner the captain was so kind as to favour us with the boat. Accordingly my two fellow passengers, self, and two seamen, landed on Turniff. Under this name is comprehended a cluster of low sandy islands, which, notwithstanding the apparently unfavourable nature of the soil, are completely covered with shrubs and plants, particularly the cocoa-nut-tree, which grows here in great abundance.

“The beach is also covered with curious shells: the conch shell and the coral plant are plentiful.

“ March 10, got under weigh, and arrived at Belize, Honduras, about four P.M.

"I have learnt since my arrival, that the noise we heard on the evening of March 6, which we supposed had been occasioned by the vessel striking upon a rock, was the effect of a smart shock of an earthquake, which had been also felt at Belize, at the very hour we experienced the concussion. Mr. ——— was sitting at tea at the time, and such was the force of the shock that it threw the tea out of the cups, and shook the foundation of the house. Mr. ——— was so doubtful of the stability of his crazy dormitory, that he ran out to the yard, fearing it would come down about his ears."

HONDURAS

is said to have been named from the Spanish word, Honduras (depth), by the Spaniards, who first came from Europe to subjugate the country, who had much difficulty in finding anchorage along the coast, on account of the great depth of water in many places.

The coast of this country was, for a long period, the resort and refuge of the lawless rovers, called buccaneers; and Belize is supposed to have derived its name from one of their lieutenants, of the name of Wallace, who first discovered the mouth of the river Belize, and made it the place of his resort. He became an object of great terror to the Spaniards, who pronounce and write it Waliz: the English settlers, by corruption, have made it Belize.

Belize is situated in latitude $17^{\circ} 28' N.$, and longitude $88^{\circ} 31' W.$ It is now a British settlement, but was for a long period a bone of contention between the courts of London and Madrid. The cutting of logwood was the occupation of the first settlers; but, as that dye-wood

became less valuable, they began to direct their attention to the cutting of mahogany.

Frequent attempts had been made by the Spaniards to expel the British settlers from this part of their late American dominions, but without success. At last, by toleration and treaty in 1763, they were allowed to remain. The treaty runs as follows:—

“ His Britannic Majesty shall cause to be demolished all the fortifications which his subjects have erected in the Bay of Honduras, and other places in the territory of Spain, in that part of the world, four months after the ratification of the present treaty; and His Catholic Majesty shall not permit His Britannic Majesty’s subjects in their work to be disturbed or molested under any pretence whatsoever, in the said places, in their occupation of cutting, loading, and carrying away log-wood; and, for this purpose, they may build without hinderance, and occupy without interruption, the houses and magazines necessary for them and their families, and for their effects, and His Catholic Majesty assures to them, by this article, the full enjoyment of those advantages and powers on the Spanish coasts and territories, as above stipulated, immediately after the ratification of the present treaty.”

Under the protection of the Spanish king, the British settlers enjoyed quietness for a considerable time after this treaty was made; but Spain looked upon them with a jealous eye, and could ill brook their residence on a spot so near the secret sources of her own wealth. In consequence of this jealousy, and notwithstanding the treaty of 1763, she secretly planned an attack, which was carried into execution in September, 1779. The

settlers were surprised and made prisoners, robbed of their property, and their persons treated with the greatest indignity. They were marched into the interior to the city of Merida, the capital of Yucatan, and from thence back again to the sea coast; they were then embarked and taken to the Havannah, where they were confined in dungeons till 1782, when the survivors were permitted to go to Jamaica, and shortly after the settlement was re-established.

It was evidently the determination of the English government not to relinquish this settlement; it was therefore deemed necessary, in the year 1783, to make a more explicit treaty concerning its occupation. Additional articles were also made to that treaty, in the year 1786, when His Catholic Majesty thought proper to grant formally to the British the right of cutting the mahogany as well as the logwood: but which right they had many years before deemed fit to take, without his permission, and which has been the principal article of export to Europe. In lieu, however, of this concession on the part of the king of Spain, England agreed to evacuate her settlements on Black River and other parts of the Mosquito Shore: all the settlers from these places, with their families, slaves, &c. were brought to Belize, in the year 1787, by the British government; the king of Spain allowing, as a mark of peculiar favour, a slight addition to the original limits, viz. from the mouth of the Belize to the mouth of the river Sibeon, about nine miles extent of sea coast.

The arrival of the settlers from the Mosquito Shore, formed a considerable increase in the population. They were, however, allowed only a short period of tranquillity; Spaniards, with their characteristic treachery,

sent a formidable squadron from Campeachy, in 1798, to endeavour once more to destroy the settlement.

In September, 1798, the Spanish fleet appeared near the town, to the extent of fifteen sail of vessels. The British, in order to cut off an asylum for their enemies, set fire to every house, and, after seeing their property and establishments consumed, commenced the attack. The engagement continued for two days, in which every male inhabitant, capable of bearing arms took part. They fought with desperation; and often, during the contest, their success was more than doubtful. At the close of the second day, however, the Spanish fleet made off, and left the settlers in possession of a hard earned victory. The greater portion of the force that acted against the Spanish fleet, on this memorable occasion, was the slave population of the settlement, to whose courage and fidelity the result of the action is to be chiefly attributed.

Belize has now become a place of considerable commercial importance to Britain, not only from its own internal consumption of our manufactures, and its exportation of mahogany and logwood (the duties on which, in England, leave a handsome sum to the revenue), besides giving employment annually to about 18,000 tons of shipping and nearly 1000 seamen; but it has also become a depôt for the sale of our manufactures, for the supply of the neighbouring states of Central America; for which we receive in return, bullion, specie, indigo, cochineal, sarsaparilla, tortoise-shell, &c. This latter trade is carried on, by sea, with Truxillo, Omoa, and the Gulph of Dolce; and many of the Spanish merchants from Guatemala, and the interior of the provinces, come periodically to Belize, to make their

purchases, which are sometimes very large. By this means, British capital and British industry find employment; and our manufactures find their way through all the states of the Federation, and even into other kingdoms.

The land in the occupation of the British is low and swampy; and although the climate is considered better than that of most of the West India Islands, yet it is far from being congenial to the health of Europeans. The land in the interior of the province of Yucatan, under the government of the Central Federation, is more elevated.

The territory now practically held "by the British occupies a line of sea-coast of about 250 miles, from the boundary of the Mexican republic to the river Sarstoon, on the commencement of the states of Guatemala;" and it abounds throughout with mahogany and logwood, which is cut down and conveyed by trucking to the beds of the rivers in the dry season, and afterwards brought down by the periodical floods, and shipped for England and other countries.

After Mr. Wilson's arrival at Honduras, on March 11, 1825, he was busily employed in the commercial business of the house on whose account he had gone abroad.

The gentleman with whom he sailed from London, and under whose direction and auspices he was to act, had a rapid voyage from Madeira to Carthage, and thence to Jamaica; so that, in pursuing his plans, he arrived at Belize a few weeks after Mr. Wilson, and by the 4th of May of the same year, their arrangements were completed for proceeding into the interior to the city of

GUATEMALA.

This portion of America is but little known, even to many whose knowledge of distant countries, both geographical and statistical, is respectable. And, perhaps, there is no civilized part of the world, regarding which less has been written, and of whose manners and customs we have had so little information.

It has always been the policy of Old Spain, to keep her foreign territories excluded from intercourse with the world at large; and Guatemala presents the remarkable fact of a civilized and polite people existing in a district almost untrodden by the feet of Europeans. It was calculated that more European strangers (not Spaniards) visited Guatemala in 1825, than had been there from the conquest of Mexico; and even in 1825, the number of visitors was very small. The sketches in the succeeding part of this volume, may therefore be read with much pleasure and interest.

What is now denominated the "Republic of Central America," was formerly known by the name of the kingdom of Guatemala. It is situated between the Columbian and Mexican Republics, and its shores are washed both by the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. It is an extensive country, said to contain 26,152 square leagues, comprising every diversity of soil and climate.

The range of stupendous mountains which run through South America, and lose themselves at the Isthmus of Panama, again appear in this Republic, and pursue their course through the extent of its territory, which exhibits a surface suitable for the production of almost every plant known in the frigid, temperate, or torrid zones.

From the coast just elevated above the level of the sea, to the top of the Table lands, and still further on to the summit of the mountains, hitherto untrodden in many instances by the human foot, may be experienced the varied temperature of all regions, from the burning fever-heat of central Africa, to the point where the cold is felt at some degrees below zero. Its productions are numerous and valuable, and its already large exportation of cochineal, indigo, balsams, drugs, and dye-woods, will doubtless be much increased by the increased attention the natives are giving to the cultivation of these valuable articles; by which means the wealth of the country will be augmented, and the number of its domestic comforts increased. It is also to be expected, that freedom of intercourse with other nations, will tend in a great measure to ameliorate that bigotry and superstition, which has so long had possession of the minds of the inhabitants, and thus pave the way for the introduction of general education, and all the benefits, civil and religious, resulting therefrom.

The central provinces can boast of a considerable number of lakes and rivers, which discharge themselves into the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Among the first Lake Nicaragua holds the most distinguished place. It is reckoned 150 leagues in circumference.

On the sea coasts are many harbours, such as Truxillo, Omoa, San Juan, on the Atlantic; and Nicoya, Realexo, Conchagua, on the Pacific.

The country is geographically divided into five states, or provinces, which compose the Federation, viz. Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. These states are again divided into parts, or departments, and the political chief of each department is

named by the chief holding the government of the state.

The constitution of the states of Central America is that of "A Federal Representative Republic."

The legislative power of the nation consists of a Federal Congress of Representatives, elected by the people.

A Senate, composed of Senators, chosen popularly, two from each of the states. The Senate aids Congress with its counsel, and approves or disapproves its enactments by confirming or annulling the same. There is also a Supreme Court of Justice, chosen by the people.

At present the government of Central America is in a very feeble state; and, for some time back, the whole country has been torn by intestine broils. The priests and their adherents have had a hard struggle to maintain their political authority, which is fast on the decline. The inhabitants are now suffering all the miseries consequent upon civil war, but it is to be hoped that liberal principles will spread widely and soon prevail.

Just as Mr. Wilson was leaving Belize for the interior, he addressed the following letter to his friend:

"Belize, May 4, 1828."

"My dear Friend,

"I had commenced a long palaver, somewhat in journal form, to transmit you by the "Ocean," but find I shall not be able at this time to accomplish my intention. Do not attribute this to carelessness or indolence. What do you think of being at the desk, from six o'clock in the morning till six in the evening? And this is not the case merely in extraordinary emergencies, but is

the usual routine throughout the year. Well, you will say, six o'clock is an early hour to drop business; much may be done between that hour and bed-time. My dear Sir, you have never been in the Bay of Honduras. Such is the debilitating enervating effect of the climate, that a person, after leaving business, is fit for little else than lounging on a sofa.

"At night I hurry off my clothes, and get into bed as soon as possible, carefully closing the pavilion round me to keep out the vermin.

"Noxious vermin abound in this quarter. Mosquitos, sand flies, doctor flies, chigoes, scorpions, centipeds, snakes, &c. In short, the place seems never to have been intended for the residence of human beings; the Aborigines above enumerated should have been left in quiet and undisturbed possession. But such is the rage of man for "Plata," that he will encounter any thing to acquire it.

"I must draw to a conclusion. It is now ten o'clock, and I start at twelve, in company with Mr. —, for Guatemala, yes, for Guatemala, the place which, though long talked of, seemed to exist but in fancy.

"We sail in the schooner Mayflower to Yzabel, thence, per mule, to the capital of the central states.

"Do not neglect to remit my poor mother each half-yearly term; it would grieve me sore were she to be neglected. Adieu, my dear friend; may you and yours always experience the peace which passeth understanding, which the world can neither give nor take away.

"Yours, very affectionately,

"JAMES WILSON."

" *May 4th, 1825.*—Left Belize in the schooner *Mayflower*, bound for Yzabal, having a convoy from his Majesty's sloop of war, *Beaver*, consisting of ten men and two officers, in one of the vessel's cutters.

"There have been some reports of pirates having been seen on the coast, which, together with the cargo on board being very valuable, is the reason we are thus protected. Eight o'clock P. M., have anchored at Mullin's River, in order to procure water and fire-wood. The scenery here begins to assume a romantic appearance; the weather has been favourable—distance from Belize about thirty miles.

" *May 5th.*—Started for Mullin's River at eleven A. M. This settlement shows a front to the sea of about twenty-four mean-looking huts. Passed Colson's Point, North Stern Creek, and are now, five P. M., abreast of the Settee River. Scenery romantic; the hills rise ridge above ridge, and gradually swell into lofty mountains.

" *May 6th.*—Early in the morning, we anchored outside of the Bar of the river Dulce. About four A. M., run the length of the outer bar, and stuck fast. Descried a schooner at a distance standing in the direction in which we were; as she neared us, made her out to be the *George Angas*. Boarded her in the man of war's boat. They at first seemed to look very suspicious at us; I doubt not they thought it was likely to be another *Springbird* affair with them.* After a good deal of

* In April, 1824, the *George Angas* was taken in these seas by pirates then in possession of the schooner "*Springbird*," which they had previously captured. The captain, supercargo, and crew of the

labour, they succeeded in dragging the Mayflower over the outer bar, but she again grounded on what is called the Oyster Bank. From the state of the wind and tide, it was concluded to be useless to make any farther attempt till late in the evening. Our convoy from the Beaver, thinking us safe from any piratical attempt, left us about eight P. M.; previously to doing so, they boarded a small craft belonging to Yzabal. In the act of rowing towards her, several shot were fired from the man of war's boats. The Spaniards tried to run, but not being able to manage the sails quick enough, they were forced to haul down their mainsail, and lay to. They seemed to be in a sad panic, suspecting, no doubt, that they were attacked by pirates.

“ May 7th.—About two o'clock this morning, operations were commenced to try and drag the vessel over the bar, but it was daylight ere they were successful. The wind being very light, we were under the necessity of again coming to anchor at the mouth of the river. Got under weigh at eleven A. M., and, after much hard work by warping, reached the middle of the small Lagoon about nine P. M., where we anchored for the evening.

“ May 8.—Three P. M. arrived at Yzabal. This place is composed of about thirty huts, pigsties included—a miserable hole—no sign of cultivation.

George Angas, were inhumanly murdered, with the exception of one or two boys, who made their escape by leaping overboard and swimming ashore. The pirates were afterwards taken (eleven in number) tried, condemned, and ten of them hung at Jamaica for their crimes; the other was pardoned, as he interfered to save the lives, but was overruled by his companions.

“ *May 9.*—Detained in Yzabal, waiting for mules.

“ *May 10.*—Left Yzabal at half-past eight A. M. Our train consisted of Mr. —, self, and servant, and five baggage mules. We are accompanied by two American gentlemen, who, besides the mules for themselves and servant, have eight for their baggage. We are all regularly armed, *à la militaire*, with swords and pistols.

“ The weather was favourable for encountering the horrors of the much dreaded mountain of Yzabal. I had heard much of the badness of the road in this part of our route; but though the account given of it was almost sufficient to deter any from engaging in such a journey, yet it came short of the reality. It is impossible for a person to form any thing like a correct idea of it, unless from actual observation: in the rainy season it must be dreadful. After a fatiguing ride, we arrived at Mico, at twenty minutes past three P. M. This place is composed of about a dozen miserable huts, scattered at some distance from each other.

“ *May 11.*—Have been detained at this place longer than we intended, through the duplicity of our muleteers. We gave orders to have the mules ready at six A. M. Seven o'clock came, but we heard nothing of them. Eight o'clock passed over, and still there was no appearance of our getting away. Shortly after, one of the muleteers made his appearance, and informed us that the mules had been allowed to go into the woods to graze, and that they were unable to catch them. This satisfied us for a short time; but time passing away without their appearing, we got impatient: at

last one of the fellows tried to persuade us to remain till the following day, alleging that it would be dangerous for us to attempt travelling during the heat of the day.

“ We instantly concluded that this was a manœuvre to detain us, in order that they might dispatch the mules back to Yzabal, to bring forward some goods, which were then, in great quantities, waiting conveyance.

“ We, however, would listen to nothing that would prove the means of detaining us on our journey, and when they saw us determined, they were not long in finding the mules. Accordingly, we started at half-past ten A. M. The scenery was delightful, and the road good; it more resembled a gentleman’s pleasure grounds than land in a state of nature.

“ We had nearly paid for our temerity in setting off during the heat of the day. The direct unmitigated rays of the sun were almost intolerable. Our ride, being through an open pine ridge, we were completely without shade. Arrived at a miserable place called Los Encuentros, at about four P. M., where we with difficulty procured a sort of Piazza or shed, in front of a wretched hovel. In this place we stowed our luggage, and stretching ourselves on the top of it, rested our aching heads as well as we could. We had all of us a slight degree of fever. It rained and thundered all night. Previous to reaching this place Mr. —— was thrown from his mule. I dismounted to assist him, but was so weak that I could scarcely get on the saddle again. In attempting to do so, I lost my balance, and pitched headforemost over to the other side; a few paces farther on, we entered a hut, the inmates of which kindly spread

a hide upon the earthen floor, upon which we stretched ourselves; and it was not till thus recruited that we were able to proceed to Los Encuentros, where we bivouacked.

“ *May 12.*—Los Encuentros. Left this place at six A.M. Felt rather unwell from the effects of the damp exhalations which rose from the woods, in consequence of the rain last night. Arrived at La Yquana at fifty minutes past eleven, where we stopped to rest. This place, which is about four leagues from Los Encuentros, is composed of only two or three huts. Left after dinner for Gualan; rested several times in huts on the road, it being excessively hot; reached Gualan at seven P.M., and put up at Don Manuel Toledo's.

“ *Gualan, May 13th.*—Luggage arrived to-day about ten A. M. Wished to proceed, but our muleteers refused, alleging they were engaged only to this place, which was a direct falsehood, as Mr. ——— engaged the mules to go right through to Guatemala.

“In consequence of their refusal to complete their agreement, Mr. ——— took them before the ‘Alcaldi.’ One of the muleteers told the Alcaldi he would sooner have his throat cut than go forward with us. It was therefore decided, that no hire should be paid them unless they fulfilled their agreement.

“I suppose the muleteers had resorted to this manoeuvre, to try whether they could induce [us] to make them a higher offer to proceed.

“In the course of the day, after we had been treating with others for mules, our refractory muleteers came to say, that they would go on, but Mr. ——— would have

nothing to do with them, having already had trouble enough in consequence of their obstinacy, not only at this place, but previously also.

“ *Gualan, May 14th.*—We are fixed for want of mules. Feel very uncomfortable; the heat is excessive, 93° in the shade. Can do little else than lie and pant for breath. All of us are very weak with a degree of fever. One of our late muleteers has set off for Zacapa, to wait our arrival, in order to see whether he cannot there procure a decision in his favour.

“ *May 15th.*—Have agreed for mules to wait upon us to-morrow. This is really a work of necessity. I verily believe that two days longer residence here would make us all bedfast. To-day the heat has been greater than ever I experienced, it was scarcely possible to respire. The thermometer was 96° in the shade.

“ *May 16th.*—Left Gualan at five P. M. This is comparatively a smart place, it contains about 100 houses, and a neat church (Roman Catholic of course); some of the houses are built of stone and plastered, others of wood, covered with mud, but the greater number are the same as the miserable bamboo erections which are met with all along from the coast.

“ Arrived at San Pablo about half-past ten A. M. Rested and took some refreshment. Set out for Zacapa about two o'clock, at which place we arrived about five. Zacapa is much larger than Gualan, and is in a picturesque situation. Went into the church in the evening, where were a goodly number of persons, chiefly females, engaged in prayer for rain!

" *May 17th.*—Left Zacapa about four A. M. After proceeding a little way, I felt very unwell, but I said nothing, thinking it would go off; but whilst fording a river, a little further on, I was seized with shivering, in addition to sickness, to such a degree, that I was afraid I should tumble into the water. Upon gaining the other side, I was obliged to dismount, wrap my cloak about me, and stretch myself upon the ground. I soon recovered so far as to be able to get upon the saddle again.

" Arrived at Porto Suelo about eight A. M. where we halted a few minutes, and took some refreshment. The ride to this place is over an extensive barren plain, on which scarcely a blade of grass was to be seen. A few stunted shrubs were thinly scattered over its surface; distant from Zacapa about six leagues.

" Chimalapa. Reached this place at half-past eleven A. M. Put up at a wretched hut. Our luggage arrived some hours after. Upon counting the baggage mules, we found that some were missing, belonging to our American friends. Dispatched our servant and one of the muleteers in search of it. After being absent for some time, we had the pleasure to see them return with the stray mule: it had wandered from the path unobserved by the drivers. Indeed they have to keep a very sharp look out, or else this is an event which would frequently occur. They have every now and then to count the mules as they proceed along, to see that none are wanting; but it would appear they had been remiss in their duty in this instance.

" Removed to a house used as a prison and guard-house; found the door open, and no one to obstruct our entrance; asked no questions, but made good our quar-

ters. The house we had left was that of the Alcaldi of the place: he was not at home himself. His wife, a grave, matronly-looking personage, had no other covering than a petticoat tied round her waist. I note this, not because it was a new sight, but because she was the *Alcalias*, alias, the wife of the Alcaldi. The females in general have no other habiliment, and the children, till they are about eight or nine years of age, generally go quite naked.

"A daughter of this functionary, an interesting-looking damsel about fifteen or sixteen years of age, was sitting weaving. On laying aside her work, she got the head of one of the younger branches of the family into her lap, and commenced a search in that quarter. As she picked the little *beasties* out she put them deliberately into her mouth!

"We saw two funerals in this place. The corpse is not put into a coffin, but is carried on a bier, and dressed out with much taste.

"A circumstance of this kind is considered by the natives as a matter of rejoicing, consequently, they are accompanied by music, and a display of fire works. Mr. ———, when he saw the first of these, concluded it to be, what in Scotland is called a 'christening,' and therefore he brought out his pistols to give them a *feu-de-joie*. He was surprised upon inquiry, to ascertain the fact.

"Chimalapa is composed of about eighty or ninety straggling Indian huts. It has a respectable-looking church, but no priest.

"*Chimalapa, May 18th.*—Our muleteers pretended that some of the saddle mules had strayed, consequently

we were still obliged to make good our quarters in the lock-up house of this place.

"It was merely a trick of the muleteers, in saying the mules had strayed. They knew we were anxious to get on. They knew, also, that their mules would be the better for a day's rest; and this, it appears, is the plan they adopt in order to effect their purpose.

"We were not, however, to be put off with this excuse, and peremptorily demanded that the mules might be immediately produced; but the day was nearly gone before they made their appearance. The muleteers had the impudence to demand half a crown for their trouble in catching them, asserting that it was the fault of our servants that they were allowed to get loose. We desired them to look to the servants for the amount.

"The American gentlemen have had much cause to be dissatisfied with their servant, and have been thinking about discharging him. A circumstance has transpired which has determined them in this matter. Jeronimo stole a fine embroidered Spanish shirt belonging to one of the muleteers, and secreted it among some foul linen of his masters'.

"Just as we were about to start, the muleteer missed his shirt. We had seen Jeronimo with it in his hand, and charged him with the theft; he, in consequence, produced it. He was next observed with a silver spoon, of which he could not give a satisfactory account. Upon examination, it was discovered to belong to Toledo, in whose house we had lodged at Gualan. Gave it in charge to the master muleteer to be delivered to Toledo on his return. He was discharged, and another engaged in his place.

"Left Chimalapa at seven P. M. Rode for about

three hours in the dark over a very rugged and dangerous road ; but, it being almost impracticable to proceed, we were obliged to stop for the night at a miserable Indian hovel, so filthy and comfortless, that we preferred sleeping outside in the open air.

“ *May 19th.*—Arrived at Wastatoi.

“ *May 20th.*—Arrived at Omoita about eleven A. M. The discarded Jeronomo has been observed following in our track for the last two days. He is a dangerous character: we may have trouble with him. We are comfortably lodged in the house of a strict Roman Catholic ; it was among his first questions whether we were of that persuasion. He seemed rather disappointed on being informed that we were Protestants. The house is all decorated with crosses, pictures of the saints, and an image of the Saviour.

“ *May 21st.*—Left Omoita at six A. M. The road between this place and Aqua Caliente is very rugged and mountainous ; as bad, if not worse, than the mountain of Yzabal. Arrived at Aqua Caliente at eleven A. M. We had to stop at a wretched hut, rendered still more uncomfortable by the inhospitable disposition of the mistress of the wigwam, who would not consent that we should occupy the interior of the mansion ! We were therefore obliged to encamp outside. To add to the misery of our situation, our baggage mules did not come up with us in the evening ; consequently we had to take our saddles for pillows, and, with our cloaks wrapped about us, passed the night as best we could.

"In the morning we felt ourselves so stiff from cold, and so weak from want of proper sustenance, that we could scarcely mount our mules.

"Aqua Caliente is composed of two or three straggling huts. There are several hot springs here, from which it takes its name, so warm that I was unable to hold my finger in them for half a second. It is said that it is possible to boil an egg in them. I did not try the experiment.

"*May 22d.*—We left the miserable inhospitable Aqua Caliente at six A.M., and reached San José about eight. Remained here till the arrival of the luggage: say till twelve. Started along with it, and arrived at Los Navajos about one P. M. The cabin we stopped at was mean, but we experienced kind treatment.

"*May 23d.*—Left Los Navajos at seven A. M., and arrived at Guatemala about twelve o'clock at noon. The day was very unfavourable for getting a view of the city; but the sight, before descending from the hills into the beautiful and extensive plain in which it is situated, was very imposing. It rained rather heavily all day, which afforded us a specimen, although a faint one, of what the roads must be in the wet season. We are lodged in the spacious mansion of Don ———.

	Dollars.
Mules from Yzabal to Guatemala, cost each ..	7
Had to find the saddle mules in maize.	
Servants' wages per month	21

“When we stopped to dine, &c., we purchased what could be procured : say fowls or eggs, &c. Our servants cooked, and in the morning remunerated our host or hostess according to the treatment we had received.

** Recapitulation of Distances.*

	Leagues.	
Yzabal to Mico	6.	Bivouacked.
Mico Los Encuentros	4.	Do.
Los Encuentros . La Yquana . .	4.	
La Yquana . . . Gualan	4.	Do.
Gualan San Pablo . . .	6.	
San Pablo Zacapa	3.	Do.
Zacapa Porto Suelo . .	6.	
Porto Suelo . . . Chimalapa . . .	2½.	Do.
At an Indian hut.		
Chimalapa Wastatoi	12.	Do.
Wastatoi Omoita	7.	Do.
Omoita Aqua Caliente .	6.	Do.
Aqua Caliente . . San José	2.	
San José Los Navajos . .	1.	Do.
Los Navajos . . . Guatemala . . .	7.	
	<hr/> 70½. <hr/>	

Each league, 2½ miles, is equal to 175½ English miles.

CITY OF GUATEMALA.

“ May 24th.—Have been detained prisoners all day, on account of our luggage not arriving till late in the afternoon.

" *May 25th.*—Have accompanied Mr. ——— to-day in making a round of visits. He has been introduced by his friend Don ———, first to Arce, president of the republic. He is a tall, good-looking man, but has the appearance of being in ill-health. He has a thoughtful and benign expression of countenance, and is altogether, as far as looks go, such a one as fancy would assign to occupy such an important station. Were also introduced to a number of the principal merchants. Their warehouses and shops are neat, clean, and commodious, and are fitted up with some degree of taste. There has been a good deal of thunder to-day, accompanied with slight showers; and our host has just informed us that the appearance of the night indicates that we may have the shock of an earthquake. The temperature is delightful, being a happy medium between heat and cold. Therm. at noon, in the shade, 73°.

" *May 26th.*—Took a walk through the city, which is very regularly laid down. The streets are well-paved, and tolerably clean. The houses are only one story high, and the walls very thick; thus they are more adapted for resisting the effects of earthquakes, which are said to be of frequent occurrence here. Many of the churches are elegant buildings. To-day we have had a good deal of thunder and rain, but no earthquake as our host had anticipated. Therm. 73° in the shade.

" *May 27th.*—Was surprised to see every one drop on his knees. Upon enquiry, was informed that a bell, which was heard tolling, was a signal that it was

the hour of prayer, and that the inhabitants, wherever they are, upon hearing this signal, kneel for a few minutes. Accompanied Mr. ——— in a walk to the part of the suburbs called Jocotenango, a place inhabited entirely by Indians, who still retain their own customs and language. This seems to be a fashionable promenade, and is truly a delightful walk. I felt even cold while out this evening, and find woollen clothes necessary. A sheet, double blanket, and quilt, not overmuch, during the night. Great preparations are making for the celebration of an annual feast, called '*Corpus de Christi*.' Covered ways, for the procession, are in the act of being formed along the principal streets.

"Mr. ———'s box of books had been detained in order that they might be examined as to the nature of their contents. He received them back yesterday, *minus* the (religious) tracts, it being judged necessary that they should undergo a more minute examination. To-day the Archbishop sent to enquire if he had them for sale, as he wished to purchase one of each kind; he also wished to be informed if he had any Bibles to dispose of. Sent an answer in the negative; but stated he was at liberty to retain one of each of the tracts; and a Spanish Bible, which he had, was also respectfully proffered.

"A number of priests frequent Señora ———'s house. Two, who live opposite, come occasionally to pass the evening at cards. Have had some thunder, accompanied by a smart shower. Therm. 71°.

"May 28th.—One of the monks of La Merced, a most intelligent friendly looking man, has been visiting Señor

—— to-day. He got into conversation with Mr. —— : among a variety of other subjects, religion became the topic of conversation. General remarks led to particulars—prayers to saints—the right of the clergy to grant absolution—transubstantiation—and the celibacy of the priests were severally the subjects of discussion. The arguments seemed to be conducted on both sides with much temper, and they parted good friends, the monk promising to call again some day soon.

“ The archbishop has returned the tracts. Mr. —— enclosed one of each, and sent them to ‘ His Holiness ! ’ Have had some thunder and rain. Therm. 73°.

“ *Sabbath, May 29th.*—Accompanied Señor —— to the cathedral this forenoon, but was obliged to leave before the service was concluded, as Señor —— expected, and even requested, that we should conform with the practices of the deluded worshippers around us, in standing up and kneeling, &c. This I could by no means comply with, and therefore left the place. Señor —— is a most amiable and sensible man ; but the Spaniards have had so little intercourse with strangers that they are unable to make sufficient allowance for difference of sentiment in the matter of religion, and they seem to expect that, even as an act of courtesy, we should comply with their forms. Mr. —— explained that scruples of conscience, in attending to forms of which we did not know the meaning, furnished the reason for our withdrawing. This seemed to be quite satisfactory.

“ I have seldom seen a face in which benevolence and good sense are more finely expressed than in that of Señor —— ; he studies our comfort in every particular, and even anticipates our wishes. He says, that if any

of their customs do not please us, we have only just to say so, and our desires shall be complied with.

"We were requested to go to the theatre to-night, which, of course, we declined. Mr. ——— stated that he thought the Lord's day should be wholly devoted to religious exercises. They laughed, and seemed surprised at our fastidiousness. Two of the padres have been in the house this afternoon playing at cards. —'If the blind lead the blind both will fall into the ditch.'

"The cathedral is a noble building. I had little anticipated seeing such an edifice in this part of the world. The beauty and richness of the interior far surpasses my feeble powers of description. Viewing the architecture and decorations, apart from the object of the building, I was quite delighted. But these feelings were momentary. The ridiculous mummerly that was going forward excited emotions of pity and indignation: pity for the poor deluded worshippers, and indignation at the priests, of whom I cannot divest myself of the idea that they must know they are deceiving the people. Some rain to-day. Therm. 73°.

"*May 30th.*—The archbishop's palace is about 111 paces in depth: say about 280 feet. Front about half that measurement, 140 feet.

"*May 31st.*—Were waited upon by the monk before referred to. Padre ——— accompanied him to the cathedral to hear the large organ played. He then conducted us to the convent of La Merced (of which he is commandador) the corridor of which is hung with paintings all around. I counted twenty-six; several of

which contained nine or ten figures, nearly as large as life. He was so kind as to explain what they represented, viz. the prominent scenes in the life of the founder of their order. The first exhibits his birth—in the last he is represented as stretched upon a bier. They have all been executed in Old and New Guatemala; and, so far as I am able to judge, I think they would stand the test of criticism.

“He next conducted us into the chapel, which is magnificent. I had heard much of the grandeur of churches in this quarter of the world, but the reality far exceeds any idea I had formed of them. We accompanied the padre to his cell, a dismal-looking place, containing a fixed table, covered with leather, and lumbered with books and papers; also a few massive antique chairs, and two or three book-cases.

“After partaking of some chocolate, and chatting awhile, he next showed us his library, which is but limited, for one whose profession is learning. Whilst in the act of looking over it, the door of the cell was opened, and in stalked a portly-looking figure. It was the superior. ‘Brother,’ said he, ‘have you got countrymen in your cell, at this time of night.’ He replied, we were ‘Englishmen, whom he had been showing the paintings, and that we had been detained in consequence of the rain.’ Eight o’clock is the hour the gates are closed, and at this time the superior visits the several cells, to see that all are present. He is followed by some of the brotherhood, one of whom sprinkles the place with holy water, and repeats the *Benediction*. A person having been despatched for our cloaks, the servant arrived with them shortly after, when we bade adieu to the intelligent,

frank, and kindly-disposed padre. A good deal of rain, accompanied with thunder. Therm. 73°.

“*June 1st.*—In the evening went to see the altars, which are erected in different quarters, in the line of the approaching procession. They are certainly grand. Afterwards went to the cathedral to hear matins performed. The exterior of this building, as I have already noted, is admirable, but the interior is magnificent. The altar would require a connoisseur to describe it. The greater part of it seems to be silver,—the workmanship exquisite. There are two figures with wings, on each side of this altar, as large as life, and elegantly dressed. They seem intended to represent angels. The walls are covered with paintings in rich gilt frames, and all around are statues of the saints, executed in a superior style, one of them I think the largest that I have ever seen. Although the cathedral of Guatemala, as a whole, does not yield to any building I have seen, it is not so very remarkable on account of its size. Its superiority lies in design and execution.

“I did not feel at all comfortable in passing along the streets this evening. It must have been observed that we paid no reverence to what extorted from every one else around us the most profound respect. The lower orders are a cut-throat-looking race of people, and, it is my opinion, would think no more of putting a knife into a person than they would of eating their dinner, particularly when in the cause of religion.

“A person here, when he has occasion to go out after dark, takes his sword under his cloak as regularly as he takes his hat. Even in the church, I observed that the

genteeler classes were, in general, armed with swords; and it may be concluded, as a thing of course, that the lower orders are provided with knives in their belts. I have been informed that *females* carry this latter weapon. We never venture out in the evening without being armed. Indeed, even during the day, if we extend our walk beyond the suburbs, we think it necessary to carry our pistols. Therm. 75°.

“*June 2d.*—The long prepared for, and much talked of, procession of ‘*Corpus de Christi*’ is at last terminated, and the *Ciudadanos* have disencumbered themselves of their silk breeches, swords, and ‘*sombreros grandes*,’ and are now quietly pacing along in their jackets and pantaloons. We did not witness the procession. We found we could not do so without conforming to certain forms: viz.—standing uncovered when the priests passed, and kneeling when what they were pleased to call the ‘*Corpus de Christi*’ passed. Conceiving this to be worshipping the *beast*, we sacrificed curiosity to principle. Though the house of Señor ——— was not in the line of the procession, yet, from what we could observe from the windows, and from what we had previously observed of the preparations, we had reason to conclude that the pageant must have been very splendid.

“Took a walk in the evening to the southern suburbs. The road is good, and the scenery delightful. Therm. 76°.

“*June 3d.*—In the afternoon took a walk to the west of the city. We had a charming view of it, and of the surrounding country, from an eminence on which is

situated the *Ermita del Carmin*. Whilst enjoying the scene, observed some monks recreating themselves. They seemed more like a few frolicsome seamen on liberty than so many *religiosos*, who had walked abroad to breathe the evening air. We were seated, smoking our cigars, when one of them walked up to us, and requested '*un poco de fuego*.' After compliments had passed, in which Spaniards abound, Mr. ——— made some general remarks about the beauty of the scenery. 'Aye,' replied the monk, 'you may enjoy it, but (pointing to his habit) we are denied such pleasure.' We learnt afterwards, that monks of this order (Dominican, I believe) were allowed to go abroad only at stated intervals, and these occur but seldom. Much rain in the evening, accompanied with thunder. Therm. 74°.

"June 4th.—Have heard that there was a murder committed last night, and another the evening before. Mr. ——— was noticing the circumstance to a padre, who visited him to-day; he gave a careless shrug of the shoulders, accompanied with the remark, '*Todas las dias*'—(every day work).

"I have already remarked that, at a particular chime of the bells, which announce '*la hora de oracion*,' all persons, wherever they are, kneel for a few minutes. Mr. ——— happened to be sitting with Señora ——— and her aunt to-day when the solemn hour was thus announced. The ladies dropped upon their knees, but Mr. ——— remained seated. This conduct was indignantly resented by the old matron. She said every one complied with the custom; even the archbishop himself; and she saw no reason why he should treat it with

disrespect. Mr. ——— replied that he attended to no religious practice, unless sanctioned by the word of God. Señor ——— corroborated this assertion, and advised her aunt to let him alone, as he had the Bible by heart. The old lady said she had read the Bible too, although, to be sure, it was a long time ago; but the archbishop and priests had enjoined the observance of what he had neglected, and she attended to what they said.

“They had some little discussion about praying to the virgin Mary, &c., and Mr. ——— recommended her to recommence the perusal of the Bible, and to read a portion of it every morning and evening. She was much shocked with the freedom of his remarks, and concluded by saying, that she was going to the cathedral, and would pray for him, that he might undergo a change of views. Mr. ——— said he was afraid she would conclude he was a heretic; she said ‘No, she wished many in Guatemala were like him.’

“Whilst in the warehouse of Don L——, one of his children, eight years of age, came in to show him a figure of a man which he had drawn. It was very well done. Our admiring it roused the pride of a father’s heart, and other two were introduced with their performances: a boy about twelve, and a sweet little girl about ten. The specimens indicated that the youngsters had genius for the graphic art. This circumstance led to some remarks on the state of education in the place. He stated that they had a college for the education of boys, but so ill-conducted that parents, who were able, chose rather to instruct their children themselves than send them to it. Females, he said, were still worse off.

“Have been informed to-day that the rivers are so

swollen, between Yzabal and this place, that cargo mules cannot get forward. It was very different as we came along. What appeared to be the beds of considerable rivers were completely dry. The carcasses of cattle, which had evidently perished for want of pasture and water, were to be seen all along our route. Even cottages were deserted, apparently for want of this latter indispensable necessary of life.

“The country, for several days’ ride, had the appearance of a sandy desert: vegetation was entirely burnt up. In the cottages along the road the inhabitants, in many instances, evidently grudged to supply us with water; and, on one occasion, the inmates of a hut actually told us they had none.

“Have had a great deal of rain this afternoon; it continues to pour down in torrents; also a good deal of thunder. Therm. 73°.

“*June 5th.*—Have gone to the house of a friend, situated in the line of the procession of ‘*Corpus de Christi*,’ in order to have a fair view of it. We find the different wards of the city attend to it on different days. - It seemed to be chiefly an exhibition of images. As a young Spaniard expressed it (either from simplicity or by way of joke) there were “thirty-six wooden saints, and ten well-dressed angels.” Each of them was fixed on a sort of platform, and carried on the shoulders of four men, who were surrounded by individuals carrying lighted wax tapers.

“In the rear of these was a large canopy, carried by about forty men, underneath which were first a number of musicians playing on a variety of instruments; next followed some of the monks chanting; then the official

civic characters of the district; and in the rear a number of priests surrounding three of their order, one of whom carried something carefully covered up, and surmounted by what appeared to me an image of the Saviour on the cross,—the other two kept smoking censers waving backwards and forwards. When this something, already noticed as carefully concealed from vulgar gaze, passed by, all the people kneeled with great apparent reverence. It was a consecrated piece of dough, which, in conformity with their notions of transubstantiation, they called God. If it had been only an exhibition of art, it would have been very interesting; for the figures, most of them as large as life, were well executed, and some of them were elegantly and even richly attired. But it is awful to think that such puppet-show work is called worshipping that Being who hath said, ‘Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, nor any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth, thou shalt not *bow down thyself to them*, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God.’ The poor deluded people seemed to look with as much awe and reverence on the images, as they passed, as if they had actually had life.

“Visited the church and convent of the Dominicans, which are both spacious and elegant. Next took a walk the length of Calvary. The view from this eminence is commanding, and the prospect rich. In the plain beneath is seen the amphitheatre, where the disgusting spectacles of bull-fights are exhibited. The ladies of Guatemala, I am told, go to witness these exhibitions, and are very fond of them.

“To the north we could observe the arches which

form the aqueduct for conveying the water with which the city is supplied; and, to the south-west, the top of the mountain, called 'Volcano de Agua,' was seen peeping through the clouds. The road to the top of it is said to be on one side four leagues, and on another three leagues. It is distant from New Guatemala about nine leagues.

" There is a quarry contiguous to the church of Calvary, from which materials for building have been taken for the last twenty years. It is said to have been once a lofty hill, though now nearly level with the plain. Felt the air very cold. Could have even borne a great coat.

" It is astonishing to see the numbers who have the swellings called 'goiters,' or, as the Guatemalicos style them, *guegueches*. They are directly under the chin. I have seen some as large as a person's head, and am informed that there are instances of their growing much larger. The people here seem at a loss to account for them, though the general opinion is, that the water they make use of is the cause.

" There has been music, dancing, and card-playing in the house this evening (Sunday); all sanctioned by the presence of a padre. He was one of those who engaged in this latter amusement. Were again requested to go to the theatre; our refusing to participate in these amusements is branded with the name of hypocrisy.

" Every house we have been in has a representation of Christ upon the cross, besides being decorated with an image of the Virgin and other saints. As it regards the latter, every one has his household deity or favourite saint. Crowds of pictures, all having some reference to their superstitions, decorate the walls. Therm. 70°.

“ *June 6th.*—We have had a visit from padre —, who is to preach to-morrow in the cathedral. He brought his sermon with him, and read it to Mr. —, who says the language and style are good, but the doctrine not conformable with Scripture. The ordinance of the Supper is the subject. Therm. 73°.

“ *June 7th.*—The Host has just passed. We were apprised of its approach by the tinkling of a small bell, which is carried before it, and kept in constant motion. There was a canopy borne by six priests, under which was the priest who carried the ‘consecrated wafer.’ These were surrounded by others, who were mumbling what I conceive were prayers. They were preceded and followed by individuals carrying lighted candles; and, what appeared strange, they were also attended by two soldiers, with muskets and fixed bayonets.

“ Mr. — has purchased a Spanish cloak, the cloth of which cost him equal to forty-eight shillings. In England it might be worth from seventeen to eighteen shillings. Boots cost only three dollars; but they are not nearly so good as English, either in the quality of the leather or finish.

“ The other night we were amusing ourselves by drawing a head to illustrate phrenology. Mr. — gave a brief explanation. A padre, who was present (padres never wish to appear ignorant on any subject), remarked to his neighbour, with a shrug of the shoulders and a supercilious twist of the countenance—‘O! it’s the transmigration of animals!’ So much for the padre’s knowledge of the sconce.

“ Our host has again expressed his fears, that the appearance of the night seems to indicate that we may

have a shock of an earthquake. Therm. morning and evening 71°; noon, in the shade, 73°.

“*June 8th.*—Señor —— is again wrong in his prognostications of earthquake.

“I have had a slight cold, and have been compelled by the good folks with whom I reside to sit at table with my night-cap on. The people here, in general, seem to be easily frightened at the least appearance of illness; and, upon the slightest indisposition, tie a handkerchief round their heads, which is kept on till they conceive themselves recovered. Neither do they wash or shave till completely convalescent. They are surprised that neither of us has had fever since our arrival, and they say that few who have gone over the same road escape it. But they give the most trivial ailment the fearful name of ‘calentura.’

“There has been a good deal of rain to-day. Therm. 73°.

“*Thursday, June 9th.*—Have witnessed another procession this forenoon, which terminates the farce blasphemously called ‘*Corpus de Christi.*’

“Señor —— is very regular in calling together the juvenile part of the household and the servants, at eight o’clock in the evening (‘*la hora de oracion*’), to go through their devotions. It is shocking to hear the levity which goes forward on these occasions. This evening, being in the room adjoining that in which they were assembled, I had an opportunity of particularly noticing it. In praying they have a set form of words, which they all repeat at the same time. They have also responses. One repeats a particular part, and

the others join in, at regular intervals, in a sort of chorus.

“Several times, in the course of the evening’s devotion, it appeared that the leader had commenced a wrong prayer, and sometimes it appeared as if the respondents were at fault; these blunders excited a general laugh, accompanied by remarks apparently humorous, from the increase of risibility which followed them; and so noisy did they become, that the senior male part of the family were roused from the card table to remonstrate against the impropriety of such conduct.

“The detail of religious service seems to be considered by the male part of the community, if I might judge from circumstances which came under my observation, to be intended only for women and children. The men seem to take no part in the family devotions, and in the churches the worshippers are chiefly women. There has been a good deal of rain to-day. Therm. 73°

“*June* 10.—The authorities of Belize have been petitioning the Guatemalian government to repeal, or at least to modify, one of their laws which seems to threaten the existence of Belize, namely, the law which declares every slave who enters the central provinces a freeman. After being warmly debated in the House of Representatives, a majority decided in favour of the petition. This decision, however, was negatived in the senate. The mode of procedure of these two bodies, in which is vested the government of the Republic, is as follows:—In the House of Representatives, a majority of one may decide the fate of any question which comes before

them. It is then sent to the senate for its approval. If the senate gives a decision different from the House of Representatives, the case is remitted back to that body to be reconsidered, and then, unless two-thirds decide in favour of their first opinion, the decision of the senate is binding.

“ The petition from Belize met with its just doom in the Senate; there not being the required majority, it was negatived. May all such petitions, in whatever part of the world, meet a similar fate !

“ It is imagined that this discussion of the Guatemalian government will materially injure the holders of slaves in Belize. The line which divides that settlement from the provinces is but imaginary; it is therefore very easy for the slaves, if so disposed, to avail themselves of the emancipation thus held out, by taking a journey into the interior; and, as a proof that this class of society is not ignorant of these circumstances, numbers have taken the benefit of them.

“ The courier which Mr. ——— despatched to Yzabal on the 24th ult., has returned to-day, having performed the journey, including three or four days' detention at Yzabal, in eighteen days, on foot. He has brought packets of letters and newspapers for us.

“ Some rain to-day. Therm. 73°.

“ *June 12th.*—The procession has not finished, as I had conjectured. To-day we had another exhibition of ‘ wooden saints’ and ‘ well-dressed angels,’ with the addition of some colossal figures, which, being carried by men concealed under the clothing, had the appearance of moving of their own accord; by the motion of the bearers, they were made to appear as if dancing.

They had likewise some representations of cows, which were also carried by individuals having their bodies in the inside of the figures, and made to dance and gambol at the will of the *animal* inside.

“Took a walk to Jocotenango, which was crowded with the fashionables of Guatemala. It was to me a strange sight to see beautiful and elegantly dressed ladies, sitting with an air of the utmost unconcern, smoking their *segaritos*. What a novelty this would seem in England, where it is thought a disgusting thing for a female to use tobacco; but here, after every meal, the lady at the head of the table is generally the first to pull out her cigar. Men, women, and children, all smoke. When meeting an acquaintance upon the street—a Guatemalico, he as naturally pulls out his flint, steel, and cigars, as a Scotchman does his snuff-box.

“The atmosphere being very clear this afternoon, we had a fine view of the tops of the volcanic mountains. We could observe the smoke issuing from that named Volcano del Fuego.

“Whilst the inmates in the house of Señor — were engaged playing at cards this evening, the Host passed. The game was laid aside, the window opened, and a candle placed outside. This it seems is considered a mark of respect.

“A lady, who was next to me, kneeled. I could not say whether the rest of the company did so, as my back was to them. In a few minutes the window was closed, and the game restored. Mr. — has frequently remonstrated with them for spending their time in this way; but they only laugh at what they call his fastidiousness, asserting that the Sabbath is not only for rest, but

also for recreation. It is almost needless to attempt to confute them from the Scriptures—they know little or nothing of their contents. They think the Bible is a book intended only for the priests; and, if they do not condemn their practices, it is all well enough. So far from the priests having a different view of the matter, seldom a night passes, Lord's-day not excepted, that there is not a padre or padres seated at the card-table. Rain and thunder to-day. Therm. 73°.

“*June 13th.*—Have had a *jigger* (properly chigo) taken out of my foot. These insects are very small; but it is astonishing the havoc they make. After inserting themselves into the flesh, they deposit their eggs there, and, if not extracted immediately, they would soon spread themselves over the whole foot, which in consequence becomes ulcerated. I have observed numbers here, chiefly of the Indians, who have their toes completely eaten away with them.

“The Host has passed this morning—saw every one kneeling as it passed along. What a mixture of pity and indignation is excited by witnessing such a scene. I cannot divest myself of the idea that many at least of the priests know that they are deceiving the poor ignorant multitude, and are conscious, however much they may even try to hide it from themselves, that their motives are mercenary.

“Have called on Mr. ——— to-day, who is a very affable and intelligent man. In the course of conversation he remarked the great difficulty he experienced in procuring correct information. He could scarcely find two individuals who gave the same account of one thing.

The population of Guatemala, for instance, some say is 30,000, others 35,000, and some again 40,000. The entire population of the provinces has been generally estimated at 1,500,000. A newspaper, entitled *Redactor General*, of which the first number has appeared to-day, will have it to be 3,000,000. These conflicting opinions, however, are not supposed to proceed from a wish to deceive, but are viewed as the effect of ignorance.

“Mr. ——— states the height of the Volcano del Fuego to be 4000 varas, which, allowing thirty-three inches to the vara, makes it 11,000 feet. On account of the pumice and loose stones with which it is covered, towards the top, it is impossible to reach the summit.

There is an individual in Guatemala, who is employed as a courier, that can go from this to Yzabel and return in seven days, on foot. The latest date of letters received from England on the 10th current (by way of Belize) is March 28, thus taking seventy-five days between London and Guatemala.

“Señor ——— has been relating a humorous incident regarding a Señora ———, which, whatever may be her good qualities, tends to place her lower in the scale of polish and refinement. Señor ———, happening to be in *Sonsonate* some time ago, was invited to partake of the hospitable cheer of Señora ———. Not seeing any forks at table, he was rather puzzled how to proceed without them. Señora ———, however, soon relieved him from his dilemma, by helping the company with her fingers. This woman is reckoned one of the principal folks in *Sonsonate*, and is estimated to be possessed of property to the extent of £30,000 sterling. Have

had some thunder and a good deal of rain to-day. Therm. 73°.

“*June 14th.*—Have had another *chigo* taken out of one of my toes: it must have been in some time, as the part is beginning to fester.

“*Señora* — has been making a round of visits among her female acquaintances: says she had been quite disgusted—they indulge so much in scandal in regard to each other. The remark exhibits *Señora* — in a favourable point of view; and goes to prove that the ladies in Guatemala, and those in *Otros partes*, must be alike in some respects. A good deal of rain this afternoon. Therm. 73°.

“*June 15th.*—To-day Mr. ——— accompanied *Señora* — to her aunt's. She showed him a number of china vases, mugs, &c., which she said were devoted for the use of the *Virgen*. Perceiving among them a blue crystal decanter, which had painted upon it in gold letters ‘Hollands,’ he enquired, with affected gravity, if the *Virgen* drank gin? The old lady shrugged up her shoulders, as much as to say, ‘you are an impious man.’ There has been much thunder and lightning and rain this afternoon. Therm. 73°.

“*June 16th.*—Mr. ——— learnt to-day, from the conversation of *Señora* — and her aunt, a number of particulars, in regard to household expenditure in this place. They were speaking of an individual who gave his servant ten rials (five shillings) a day to procure provisions for the table, his family consisting of eight persons. This, they said, was too much. I notice that

Señora ——— every night after supper, gives money to the servant; and I have more than once perceived that the amount was ten rials; this, I have no doubt, is to procure provisions for the following day. And, considering that no fewer than fifteen individuals mess in the house, this is a very moderate sum indeed to procure beef, bread, rice, fish, vegetables, and fruit, and these not in scanty allowance. The table groans under abundance—at least I am almost inclined to groan when pressed, with an urgency that will scarcely admit of a refusal, to partake of what appears an endless variety of dishes.

“ We learn also that the rent of the premises, which serve both for a dwelling-house and warehouse, is 500 dollars per annum. The house forms a square, having a large open space in the centre, and contains ten spacious rooms, besides kitchen, servants’ apartments, stable, &c. There are also within the premises two large reservoirs for water, which are kept constantly full. The principal servant, the cook, is paid at the rate of thirty-five dollars per annum.

“ Our washerwoman has made a charge of one dollar per dozen, but Señora ——— says that four rials is liberal pay. Much rain and thunder. Therm. 71°.

“ *June 18th.*—Last night Mr. ——— got unintentionally involved in argument with a padre, on a subject in which Roman Catholics and Protestants differ, viz. the propriety of the laity having the Bible without note or comment. Mr. ———, of course, advocated the free and unfettered circulation of the Scriptures, stating that the Holy Spirit was promised to those who asked,

and that, by his assistance, the most illiterate was able to perceive the spiritual meaning of the sacred writings.

“The padre denied that the Holy Spirit was promised to Christians in general, and affirmed, with the most dogmatic air, that he was only promised to the Church. He was asked what he understood by the Church. It was apparent that his answer did not come quite ready—his manner seemed to betray a want of confidence in the assertion he was about to make. After a deep drawn respiration, however, it came out—the Clergy.

“Mr. ——— asked him what part of Scripture sanctioned such a view of the subject; he quoted, in reply, the passage, ‘Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.’ The ‘two or three’ he explained to be the clerical few, in contradistinction to the lay many. And, with regard to their monopoly of the influences of the Spirit, he made a sweeping gratuitous assertion that these were only promised to the apostles, and to the priests, as their successors.

“Mr. ——— stated the view which he, as a Protestant, had of these matters, and adduced Scripture in support of his statements. This seemed rather to stagger our enlightened son of the church, which he evinced by a fluttered manner and loss of temper. He challenged Mr. ——— to meet him, on a day which he specified, to discuss the points in dispute; but Mr. ——— is too prudent to involve himself in argument with these men, and wishes to avoid any thing like a direct attack upon their superstitions, judging that little good is to be effected in this way. He therefore stated that he had not attacked, but merely stood on the defensive, conceiving it to be his duty to state his views of the sub-

jects which had been introduced. Here the matter dropped, and the spiritual instructor sat down to a game at cards. There has been a good deal of thunder and lightning and rain to-day. Therm. 71°.

“*June 19th.*—This morning there has been another religious procession; but, having seen as much of this sort of trumpery as is necessary for information, and to gratify curiosity, I declined going to witness it. Mr. ——— accompanied Señor and Señora ———; on their way they met the *Corpus de Christi*: all the people, as is the custom, kneeled, even although the streets were wet. Mr. ——— had to make good his retreat into the entrance of *un casa*, until the solemn farce had passed.

“We were much importuned to accompany the family to the theatre this evening. Our peremptory refusal seemed to fill them with astonishment. I turned up a Spanish Bible, and requested them to read at Exod. xx. 8, 9, 10, 11, which was complied with. The answer was, ‘It is all very good.’ They attended mass in the morning, and they thought there could be no harm in recreating themselves a little on the Sunday evening; and, by way of meeting my quotation from Scripture, they adduced the example of two Englishmen, who were frequently present at these dramatic exhibitions on the Sabbath evening. I gave them to understand that, though all England were to set the example, we should not follow it.

“A young candidate for holy orders has been in the house great part of the day playing at cards. It has rained with little intermission all the day. Therm. at six A. M. in the room stood at 70°; when exposed

in the corridor it fell to $63\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$; at noon, in the house, 70° .

"*June 20th.*—Señor ——— has had some fresh arrivals from Spain: among other things a lot of books. One work took my attention from its bulky appearance, there being eight volumes, each as large as those of Henry's Commentary. On examining them I found it was 'the Bible,' or the version of it, which the conclave at Rome allow the vulgar to peruse.—'Woe unto you, lawyers, for ye have taken away the key of knowledge; ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.' It has rained from six A. M. till four P. M. without intermission. The wet season seems to have fairly set in. Therm. in the corridor, $63\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$.

"*June 21st.*—Whilst taking a walk this evening our attention was attracted by a crowd round a shop door. Upon enquiry we learnt that a gentleman had just committed suicide by shooting himself. He was a respectable individual, and was much esteemed in Guatemala. He had formerly been connected with one of the first houses in Cadiz, but was obliged to fly at the Revolution. He then went to Lima, where he commenced business; but, on account of political commotions, he was obliged to leave that place also; his next asylum was Guatemala, where he has been for about two years, and had got into an extensive business. An embarrassed state of affairs is the cause assigned, by some, of the rash act which he has committed. We met him some days ago in the house where we went to see the procession of the *Corpus*: judging, from appearance, he

seemed likely to be the last man in the company to commit such a deed. He was genteel in appearance, and polite in address, and his countenance indicated solidity and good sense. He had travelled much; had been in Russia and France, and many parts of the continent of Europe; but Spain was his native country.

"This is only the second instance of suicide, I am told, which has occurred in this place for several years. A citizen, stating to Señor ——— what he knew of the affair, concluded with the exclamation, 'it is a Protestant act;' he gave a hurried glance at Mr. ——— and me, who were standing near, and looked as if he did not intend that we should have heard the remark. It spoke volumes, and, in my opinion, is a true specimen of the general feeling and sentiment towards those who differ from them in religious matters. Have had a deal of rain, accompanied with thunder. Therm. $96\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$.

"*June 22d.*—This evening Mr. ——— and ——— went out and accidentally met the friends of the suicide, who were removing his corpse from the place where he had committed the rash deed, to his late residence. They joined the procession. Mr. ——— was requested to do the same; but, as he says he would have had, like the others, to carry a waxen taper, he declined. He says he would have had no objection to carrying the candle—light being required, as it was night; but he could not tell what was to follow—he might have been placed in awkward circumstances, had any superstitious observance been gone through. To-day there has been some thunder and rain. Therm. $70\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$.

“*June 23d.*—Señora —— has been telling Mr. —— that the conduct of an English gentleman here has given much offence. Being present one day during the time the priest was consecrating the host, he, whilst every one else was kneeling, stood with his arms folded; and what was most impious, even turned his back upon the altar whilst the priest raised the deified wafer. A remark of Señora ——’s, in reference to this circumstance, is certainly just: ‘that if strangers cannot join with them in their worship, they have no right to come to their churches to insult them, by showing disrespect to what they have been taught to believe is of the most sacred importance.’

“This would be all very reasonable, if there was no fear of insulting them in this particular, except by intruding into their churches. But a person who is conscientious in matters of religion, and differs from them in his views of divine things, cannot walk the streets, or visit them in their houses or shops, without running the risk of giving offence on this score.

“For instance, in traversing the city, if he does not lift his hat in passing the seminaries of superstition and idolatry, he is viewed as treating with disrespect their holy religion!—at the corners of almost every street there are recesses in the walls, in which are waxen figures, or pictures of the *Virgen*, and a few artificial flowers,—these are glazed in front, and lamps hung before them in the evening, and he that does not kneel, or at least uncover, before these ‘Punch and Polly’ exhibitions, treats with disrespect their holy religion:—the Host is carried from the churches to the houses of the sick; a person who has occasion to be frequently out will occasionally meet it; simply to doff the hat will

not do on occasions of this nature: foul or fair, every one must down upon his knees, or be marked as one who treats with contempt their holy religion! To pass an ecclesiastic, of whom there is an abundant crop here, without uncovering, would be viewed in a similar light. If, in making a visit in a forenoon, one should happen to be present when the bell announces *la hora de oracion*, if the members of the family are devout, down they drop upon their knees, and look, if they do not express it, as if their visitor should do the same, if not from a religious motive, at least as a matter of courtesy.

"To one whose mind has been in any measure enlightened with just views of the truth of Scripture, it is very annoying to be in the midst of such a community. I do not feel quite comfortable sometimes in passing along the streets, particularly towards dark, as no doubt from our non-compliance with the customs enumerated we must be marked characters; and I have little doubt that many, very many, of the ignorant rabble would think they did God service in giving us a sly stab. But this remark applies chiefly to the lower orders; for I believe that, among the more influential classes, there exists, although it dares scarcely be expressed, a good deal of liberality of sentiment, as it regards religious toleration.

"A circumstance, which I have learnt to-day, tends in some measure to corroborate the opinion which I have ventured to indite, in regard to the intolerant disposition of the lower orders of the community. A Frenchman, of whom there are several here at present, was standing looking on whilst the Host was passing, but he neither kneeled nor took off his hat. A person

standing near him either desired or requested him to take it off; he refused to comply. The demand was repeated; and, on his still refusing to acquiesce, the individual knocked it off.

“A young gentleman, who lives close by, was present to-day while we were at dinner; I observed something tied round his neck, which appeared to be a stripe of the branch of a cocoa nut tree. I asked him in English if he had got a tailor’s measure round his neck; upon the question being repeated in Spanish, the countenances of those present assumed, all at once, an uncommon air of gravity, and the lady of the house informed us, with much apparent seriousness, that it was a *blessed branch*. It is humbling to see how easily mankind is imposed upon in the matter of religion; it would appear as if nothing were too absurd to be believed, if so be it only be dignified with the name of religion. Here was a number of individuals, some of them remarkable for shrewdness and good sense in other things, who seemed firmly persuaded that a bit of withered twig, over which a sinful creature like themselves had muttered his *benediction*, and fixed upon it a piece of consecrated wax, would preserve them from injury from lightning. Almost every house has branches of this stuff fastened on the outside of the windows, besides having the interior decorated with a particular sort of ornament constructed of the same material. I am given to understand that these also are considered as preservatives from the effects of lightning. Mr. ——— told them he would sooner trust to an iron rod, which science had discovered and experience ascertained to be the most effectual safeguard against the destructive effects of electric fluid, than to all the *blessed branches* in Guatemala.

"It is customary here, with the devout, when in sickness, or when there is any important object to be attained, to vow that, if recovery be granted in the one case, or realization of their wishes in the other, they will wear the habit of some religious order for a specified time. Consequently, numbers of the laity are to be seen, some with the habit of monks, others with that of friars, and the females with that of nuns.

"Señora ——'s aunt stated that in consequence of a niece, who lives with her, being subject to fits, she vowed that, if her said niece was freed from their influence, she would wear the habit of a nun. She says that, from the time she assumed the wonder-working dress, her friend was freed from the fits, but she no sooner dropped the dress than they returned.

"Dame Z—— has been giving it as her opinion, that the reason why the English are fairer than the Spaniards is, that they wash their faces more frequently; and, added as for herself, she was so afraid of catching cold that she only washed her face about once a month.

"Have heard to-day that the archbishop has refused to allow the remains of the suicide to be interred in consecrated ground, in consequence of his having been a member of a society of Freemasons.

"Thunder, vivid lightning, and heavy showers. Therm. 70½°.

"*June 24th.*—This morning, early, I was surprised by hearing the discharge of artillery. Have learnt it is the anniversary of the Installation of the Congress. To-day is also St. John's day, a particularly holy day, or, as the Catholics have it, 'a day of two crosses.' I am informed that, on such occasions, individuals whose

names are the same as the saints expect a visit of ceremony from their friends, and view it as a want of respect if omitted.

“We have now been nearly five weeks here, and have been introduced to many respectable individuals from the resident downwards, who have all been lavish in their professions and proffers of service. Their houses, and every thing in them, were, according to the complimentary style of the Spaniards, *para servir a usted*, and we were also informed that it would afford much pleasure to see us frequently. As one of Mr. ——’s objects here is to acquire information, of course he has availed himself of these general invitations; but, strange to say, we have not had one special invitation as yet. Señora —— says it is not the custom of the place, and I begin to think that this is really the case. Señor and Señora —— are two as hospitable, frank, and social individuals as I have met with any where, but I have never seen them have any thing like a party. They seem to pay and receive visits in the forenoon, and if a person happens to drop in near the dinner hour (one o’clock) he walks with the family into the dining room, apparently without the formality of an invitation.

“Señor —— has just informed us that a procession, which was to have taken place to-day from the palace to the cathedral, of the persons who compose the government, in order to swear to the constitution, has been stopped by the seditious conduct of one of their number.

“Instructions had been sent to him to order out the militia, but he refused to comply, alleging that he had not had timely notice. It would appear that the pre-

sident had concluded that the procession would take place notwithstanding ; but after waiting some time for the *Gefe de Estado*, and the other municipal authorities, without their appearing, he proceeded with those present to the church, and, after being detained there for some time longer, it was ascertained that the other party had gone to the church of the Dominicans. This has all arisen, I am informed, out of a private pique of the *Gefe de Estado's* against the president, and he has chosen this method of manifesting it. That he has dared to do so shows the degree of efficiency of the government. Congress is called together on the subject.

"To-day we have had some of the most vivid lightning, and tremendous bursts of thunder, accompanied with torrents of rain, that I have ever witnessed or heard.

"Was over in Señora Z.'s this afternoon, and was shown some very rich robes belonging to an image of the Saviour and the Virgin Mary, one of which, lately arrived, cost 800 dollars in Spain. Therm. 70°.

"*June 25th.*—Have to-day witnessed the procession which was to have taken place yesterday. A guard of soldiers was sent for the refractory members, when they quietly acquiesced. I am not aware what may be done further in this business ; but, from what I can learn, the government is by no means in such a state as to risk any bold or decisive step in enforcing its mandates.

"This evening had our swords buckled on, our pistols in our pockets, and, assassin-like, our cloaks thrown over all, with the intention of going to a marriage—a strange kind of ornament for such an occasion, but

such is the ruffian, murderous disposition of the rabble here, that it is not considered safe to stir out after dark without being thus accoutred.

“ Had only proceeded a few paces when the rain began to fall in torrents, accompanied with thunder and lightning. Therm. 72°.

“ *June 29th.*—St. Peter's day ; another double cross. A piece, entitled ‘ The Inquisition unmasked,’ has been exhibited in the theatre repeatedly during our stay here. This is the only week day the theatre has been open since our arrival. Sunday is, in general, the day of performance. Went in the evening to witness the representation.*

“ It is something very unaccountable that an exhibition, which tends so manifestly to lessen the blind respect in which the priests are held by the multitude, should have been allowed to be introduced into such a place as Guatemala ; and it is truly astonishing to see how much the people relish the exhibition : good may be brought out of evil.

“ The drift of the piece seems to be as follows :—A priest makes dishonourable proposals to a female of a respectable family. She rejects, with disdain, his attempts to seduce her. To be revenged, he lodges information with the Inquisition that the young lady has been guilty of some dreadful crimes ; and also against

* Mr. Wilson was not a play-goer, and disapproved of theatrical representations as inimical to the interests of morality. The extraordinary exhibition to which he refers, taking place in a bigoted Catholic country, seems to have created a desire in him to see with his own eyes what is but a degree removed from the incredible.

the father for having prohibited books in his possession, treating on botany, mathematics, &c. ! The lover of the young lady is also implicated. They are all three brought before the Holy Tribunal, and found guilty on the simple allegation of the vile priest ! This individual again sends for the lady privately, and offers to set them all at liberty if she will comply with his wishes, but she rejects his proposal with indignation. The father is then introduced, and the same offer is made to him, provided he will use his influence with his daughter to induce her compliance. He rejects the horrid proposal, and is then shown the rack, the blazing fire, &c., but he still remains firm. Whilst the attendants are preparing to put him to torture, a noise is heard without, which is followed by a discharge of musketry, and an instantaneous rush of soldiers into the hall of the Inquisition, shouting—Long live the Constitution—death to the Inquisition ! The Inquisitors start up in the greatest alarm, and try to hide themselves from the fury of the soldiers.

“The commanding officer then comes forward, and, addressing the audience, begs they will not suppose that the representation they have just witnessed is in the least intended to lessen their esteem for their Holy Religion, or its ministers ; and begs they will learn to discriminate between the true ministers of God, and those who merely assume the name to cloak their villainies. He then gives orders to demolish the engines of torture, which are obeyed with alacrity ; the soldiers having knocked them to pieces with the butt ends of their musquets, the curtain drops, amid the cheers of the audience.

“From what I hear, and observe, the clergy, and

the more devout of the laity, do not at all relish such an exhibition. It certainly can be no very pleasing spectacle to them to see even the *cloth* treated with contempt. For no doubt it is their wish, that the people should be inspired with such reverence for them, that even if their canonicals were hung upon a barber's block they should be treated with deference. These objections go no farther, however, than whispers, and half-uttered growls; the generality of the people seem to relish the representation, and the government decidedly countenances it. The circumstance of a party of soldiers with muskets and fixed bayonets being present in the theatre, to keep order, is both corroborative of the truth of the latter assertion, and indicative of the turbulent disposition of the people.

"When we reached home, we were informed, that the prisoners, in number about 400, were making an attempt to break out of prison. The troops in Guatemala do not exceed this number. This information seemed to alarm Señora ——— very much. They had broken out in September last, and committed much depredation, entering the houses of European Spaniards chiefly, and helping themselves to whatever took their fancy.

"Natives of old Spain are objects of dislike and suspicion, both to the government and to the body of the people, and they, being aware of this, dread every thing like public commotion, fearing they would become the butt of the blind fury of the mob. Therm. 69°.

"*July 1st.*—Have heard nothing further about the prisoners. I suppose the means used for preventing their escape must have been effectual.

"Last winter (this is the season the Guatemalicos

call winter) the Belizians who had occasion to travel to this place complained of the badness of the road from the rain. We are informed that, in comparison with this year, there was little rain last year. We may therefore expect to find the roads miserable indeed upon our return.

“I saw a coach, a few days since, which was brought from England thirty-five years ago, and cost 2800 dollars. Has rained so much to-day that we could not stir out of doors. Therm. 69°.

“*July 2nd.*—Called this forenoon at the store of Señor ——. Whilst there, the bell of the cathedral chimed, ‘*la hora de oracion.*’ There were six or seven persons present besides ourselves; they all dropped most devoutly upon their knees, in which posture they remained two or three minutes. But as an evidence that this is a mere mechanical operation, a sort of automaton evolution in which mind has no share, one of the clerks, who was sitting at the desk engaged in writing, in place of quitting what he was about, got upon his knees upon the top of the stool, and continued his operations. This is not the only instance on which I found my assertion, having frequently seen (and heard of on other occasions) the most disgusting levity displayed by persons whilst engaged in what they call prayer.

“*July 3rd.*—Whilst walking along the streets this morning, in company with Mr. — and Señor — ‘*la hora de oracion*’ was announced from the belfry of the cathedral, when instantaneously all were upon their knees again. Señor — out of regard to us, I suppose, did not kneel: he merely walked with his hat off. But,

as we showed no mark of respect for this observance, of course we should be viewed as heretics by the humble suppliants around us, many of whom, I could imagine, eyed us with any thing but a look of benevolence.

“ In Scotland, when I happened to see a man upon his knees, I fancied I saw a brother, one in whose hands I could have trusted myself, even though I had no previous knowledge of his character ; here it is the reverse. When I see one in the attitude of devotion, particularly in the street, I think I have before me one who could cut my throat, and think he did God service. How clearly does this identify the character of this people with that portrayed in Matt. vi. 5: “ They love to pray standing in the synagogues, and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men.’

“ In the course of our walk, Señor —— met a monk with whom he is acquainted, of the order of ‘Franciscans.’ We met him in front of the church and convent of the same name ; he invited us to look at the interior of the church, &c. It is twenty-five years since the first stone was laid, and it is yet but in a progressive state. What is finished of the interior of the church is splendid. The ingenuity of the architect, sculptor, and painter, seem taxed to produce something which will fill every beholder with admiration.

“ He next conducted us up a narrow, crooked, prison-looking staircase, which, together with the figure that led the way, with his ample monkish habit, shaved head, and bunch of keys in his hand, forcibly reminded me of what I had heard of the Inquisition. The iron-grated windows, and the amazing solidity of the walls (seven or eight feet thick), tended to strengthen the impression. We were led to no dismal cell, but to

a spacious arched hall, intended as a library to the monastery. From the windows there is a most enchanting prospect of the country. After feasting our eyes for some time with the highly picturesque scene, we descended with our ghostly guide into the cemeteries of the dead. The whole of the space underneath the church, which is very neatly finished, is used as a place of sepulture. It is divided into small apartments, which are full of openings in the wall, sufficient to admit a corpse; these, when filled, are built up at the end, and in general '*hic jacet*' narrates, with much brevity, who, and what, once were the now occupants of these narrow tenements. One of these cells was completely filled; and, had it not been for the inscriptions with which the walls were covered, we should have had no idea of being surrounded with the 'venerable dead.' The echo of our voices in these cells exactly resembled a deep and lengthened groan. Having re-ascended from these dismal regions, we bade the friendly monk adieu.

"In the afternoon accompanied Señor —, Señora —, and Mr. —, in a walk to Calvary. On our way thither, on passing the church of the Franciscans, they were celebrating the sacrament, and the people were kneeling within and without. Señor — passed uncovered. Señora —, who is a strict, I had almost said a bigotted Catholic, requested Mr. — to do the same. But courtesy and compliment, in these particulars, are out of the question. He would not comply.

"On our return we saw the people kneeling at the head of a cross street a little way before us, and we heard the jingle of the hand bell which intimates the approach of the 'Host.' We were rather nonplussed, not being able to see any place where we might get out

of the way, as it is our wish, as much as possible, to avoid giving offence; but we were relieved from our dilemma by its passing in another direction. Thus it is, we can scarcely stir out at any time, or in any direction, without running the risk of offending this people, by non-compliance with their superstitious observances. The day fine till seven P.M., when it began to rain, accompanied with lightning and thunder. Therm. 62°.

“ July 4th.—I understand, from what I have heard here, that the lake distinguished by the name of Nicaragua is divided into two Lagunas; the one contiguous to Rio San Juan, which is the largest, being called Lake Granda, and the other Lake Nicaragua. This is highly probable; the Gulph of Dulce, which in the maps is represented as one body of water, is divided into two, distinguished, the one contiguous to the River Dulce, as the Small, and the other as the Large Laguna. The fort of San Phillipe also, which in passing up the river is on the right hand, is laid down on the maps we have as being on the left. This, however, might be overlooked as a typographical error, if other parts were even but tolerably correct; but it is evident that the parts of the maps intended to delineate the interior of the country are merely guess work. For instance, Zacapa, which is about half way between Yzabal and Guatemala, is represented in these maps as being on the margin of the Gulph of Dulce; and the position allotted to Guatemala itself seems very erroneous.

“ I have been in the House of Congress to-day, for the first time, which is neat and commodious, and supe-

rior to that in which the British Parliament assembles. When we went in, the auditory assembled to listen to the discussion of subjects involving the weal of the state was composed of *two* of the "Ciudadanos;" one of them without stockings or shoes. During the time we remained (about an hour) the audience increased to ten, and before we left decreased to *one!!* So much for the interest felt in the discussions of Congress. The part of the house allotted for members is elevated about four or five feet above that destined for the public, and is separated by a railing. Up both sides is a row of seats for the members; the floor is covered with a sort of fine matting in general use here, made of party-coloured straw, and somewhat resembling oil cloth. At the top of the hall, in the centre, is the chair of the speaker or president of the house, placed under a canopy of crimson velvet, behind which is the arms of the republic. The members present, other functionaries inclusive, were about thirty:—with a few exceptions, they had the appearance of tradesmen in their Sunday clothes. There seemed to be a number of clergy among them.

Mr. ——— was drawn into argument to-night by a padre, on the subject of religion which lasted for about two hours. Mr. ——— would admit of no reference but to the Scriptures, which hampered his opponent sadly, he being apparently more familiar with the fathers than with the sacred writings. Our clerical friend said he prayed for us, that we might be convinced of our errors. Mr. ——— told him he did the same for him. He requested that in future we would spare ourselves this trouble, so convinced was he that he was right, and that we were wrong. Parted in good humour.

“ Rain accompanied with thunder. Therm. 69°.

“ *July 5th.*—An aged reverend-looking padre, having heard that we had some tracts on religious subjects, called this morning to request a loan of one of each of the kinds, which Mr. ——— complied with, though rather suspicious of the motives of the clergy in soliciting these tracts. During the day another padre (the one who argued yesterday) made a similar request, which was also complied with.

“ Thunder and rain. Therm. 69°.

“ *July 6th.*—Mr. ——— happened to be in the house of Señora Z. this morning, when a subscription paper was brought in to raise the necessary sum for a young lady who was desirous of entering a convent, and taking the veil. Mr. ———, in looking over the paper, observed that some had given to the amount of twenty-five dollars. He said he would much rather give a like sum to see her well married, as she would thus become a useful member of society. ‘What!’ said the old lady, ‘take away the wife of Jesus Christ!’ It was replied, she might be that without immuring herself in a convent. “It is impossible,” rejoined Dame Z——. Mr. ——— appealed to herself as a living example, admitting her own idea of the subject (she is an old maid). The old lady seemed completely entangled. She hesitated, looked this way, and the other way, and did not directly say that there were few like her, but something which might bear that construction.

Mr. ——— again asked if the young lady was a good woman, and added, if she was not, according to their views, she was not a fit subject for a nunnery; and if

she was, according to his, the influence of her example was much wanted in society.

“ Dame Z—— again protests she will quit speaking to him on such sacred subjects, as he appears to be quite incorrigible.

“ During this conversation an aged menial was sitting in a corner of the room, twisting and fingering at what Mr. —— humourously described as resembling a horse’s tail; he enquired at Senora what it was, and was informed it was a head dress, alias a wig for one of the saintesses. I forget her name.

“ The ‘basis’ upon which the government will receive offers for cutting the canal to join the Atlantic and Pacific oceans has at length made its appearance in ‘El Indicador’ of the 4th instant. It is, as I understand it, rather a preposterous document, and by no means exhibits the wisdom of the legislature in a favourable point of view. They seem to think it would be an advantage to the country to take the important undertaking into their own hands; and doubtless the idea so far is a good one; but they also appear so puffed up with the competition which exists in Europe and America, in reference to this highly desirable object, that they seem to imagine any terms they choose to propose will be acceded to.

“ The tenor of their ‘basis’ seems to be this, that they will allow any individual or company to cut the said projected canal; when finished, the government will take it into their own hands, allowing what they consider a fair remuneration: the amount so allowed to be assumed as a public debt.

“ The revenue of said canal, after deducting charges for garrisons—vessels of war! to be stationed on the Lake (Nicaragua) for the protection of trade—necessary

repairs, &c., is to be applied towards paying the interest of the debt, and the gradual liquidation of the principal. But should the undertakers or contractors, after commencing the work, find its completion impracticable, the government expressly stipulates that, in the event of this, it will not be responsible for any part of the expenditure.

“ This is undoubtedly an age for philanthropic and disinterested undertakings !! but I am afraid the Guatemalicos will find they have concluded to draw too largely on the credulity of others.

“ A little rain to-day. Therm. 69°.

“ *July 7th.*—The old padre has called this forenoon ; he has expressed his approbation of the tracts he obtained the other day by saying, they are ‘ *muy bueno*,’ and padre ——’s opinion is, that they are ‘ *muy precioso*.’

“ *July 8th.*—Yesterday I strolled the length of Carmen, and this morning to Calvary. The more I view the scenery around Guatemala, the more I am delighted with it. The beautiful plain of La Virgen, in the midst of which stands the capital, is said by Don Domingo Juarros, to be five leagues in diameter ; and considering that here the hand of industry has done little, and nature mostly all, a lovelier spot could not well be imagined. From the two places mentioned above the eye can range nearly over the whole circumference. In different directions are to be seen extensive prairies without so much as a single bush upon them, and the surface so equal as almost to warrant the supposition that art had been employed to give them that appearance. These are covered with a beautiful verdure. Here and there

an eminence gives relief to the scene, and several deep ravines contribute to its grandeur. The Indian cottages scattered in picturesque irregularity over the wide extent, and almost hid amongst the luxuriant foliage of the clumps of trees with which they are surrounded, gives a lively appearance to the whole. Skirting the plain to the south-west is seen towering to the heavens the Volcano de Agua, and a little beyond it the still more lofty Volcan del Fuego, emitting occasionally columns of smoke; and surrounding the whole are lofty mountains, around whose tops silvery clouds are continually flitting. What a scene for the painter! But, wherever our lot is cast on this terrestrial ball, there is always a something tending to counteract the disposition so natural to us to be inordinately attached to the things and places which please us. I speak not of thunders, volcanos, and earthquakes; something much more minute is the annoyance I point at at present.

“Who would suppose that such an insignificant insect as a flea, and the almost imperceptible chigoe, could be causes of serious annoyance to man. But so it is. The swarms of fleas here are greater than even the mosquitos at Belize, and this, it would appear, is not the effect of want of cleanliness. The house we reside in is kept remarkably clean, and yet we are sadly pestered, I had almost said tormented, with these insects. A polite, well-dressed, *delicate* female (Guatemala standard), seated at the head of the table, thinks nothing of coming out with the exclamation, ‘*O que pulgas!*’ and darting the hand towards the smarting spot, in order to allay the pain by a little friction; and yet the same individual would be almost fit to spit in the face of the person who would so much as mention in her

hearing the word *piojo* (louse). The latter is considered to originate from sloth and filth, the other is regarded as a misfortune, which their utmost exertions may mitigate, but cannot utterly remove.

“The *chigoe* is a very small insect, which inserts itself between the skin and the flesh. The parts of the body in which it principally lodges are the knees and the feet, but chiefly the latter. It is amazing the havoc it makes in a very short time. Since I came to Guatemala I have had several extracted from my feet, and, although they could not have been long in, they left sores which caused some little uneasiness.

“It is deplorable to witness the ravages of these animalculæ on the feet of many of the lower orders. Numbers are to be seen with their toes eaten completely away, and the rest of their feet, and lower part of the legs, swelled to a most unnatural size, and covered with sores.

“The *goiters*, or, as they are called here, *guegueches*, with which the people seem to be much afflicted, tend also in no small degree to moderate the pleasures which the traveller experiences in arriving in Guatemala; and, when informed that the water they use is supposed to be the cause of these swellings, he feels rather disposed to apprehend a possibility of the same cause producing a like effect as it regards himself. Therm. 68°.”

About this time Mr. Wilson received various communications from his friends in Britain, and, as his letters in reply have a tendency to illustrate and confirm the extracts so copiously given from his Journal, I have considered it right to give full extracts from these letters also; I hope that any thing which may appear like repetition will be forgiven, for the sake of that which is new.

" N. Guatemala, June 11th, 1825.

" My dear Sir,

" To-day I have been feasted. When your interesting letters were spread before me, I forgot, for a while, that I was five or six thousand miles distant from home. Yes, I find I must still call the 'Land of the Thistle' my home; for there my heart—true as the needle of the mariners' compass—constantly turns. In the present, I intend to do little more than acknowledge the receipt of your much esteemed favours, and also to tender you my hearty thanks for being so mindful as to send me some newspapers. A similar present every time you write I shall feel grateful for; it is extremely interesting, when so far removed from relatives and friends, to know what is passing in the place in which they reside.

" No doubt you have frequently accompanied me in my wanderings, and pictured, in imagination, the spiritual privations, and peculiar temptations to which I have been, and still am subjected; and you know, from experience, the dissipating influence which travelling has upon the mind. O never cease then to pray for me, that I may be kept, by the mighty power of God, from following the evil inclinations of my wicked heart, and that I may be enabled to look to him through a Saviour for strength to persevere in the narrow way.

" I cannot trust myself, as yet, to enter into particulars. First impressions are often, I had almost said always, erroneous;—you and I, my friend, have lived long enough in the world to know this from experience. After a little time, however, the false colouring which novelty, and circumstances merely casual, may have

communicated to things, wears off, and the mind is then better able to form an unbiassed opinion.

“Public religious toleration has not yet found its way into Guatemala; but among the members of government, and the better class of the inhabitants, I am inclined to think there is a good deal of liberality of sentiment in this particular. The lower orders, however, are very bigoted, and have great veneration for the clergy, who are very numerous. I believe any attempt at innovation, at present, as it regards them, would be sufficient to bring about a counter revolution. It is pitiable to see the poor deluded creatures falling down upon their knees as the carriage of the archbishop passes. He who comes here with the object of benefiting the people, in a religious point of view, would truly need the wisdom of the serpent, and the harmlessness of the dove. As their intercourse with foreigners increases, it is to be hoped they will increase in liberality of sentiment. I have heard it asserted here, that more foreigners have been seen in Guatemala within the last six months than there have been since the conquest.

“Yours, affectionately,

“JAMES WILSON.”

“N. Guatemala, July 11th, 1825.

“My Dear Friend,

“Did circumstances permit, I should like to blend incident to amuse, with necessary information. ‘And what,’ methinks I hear you, half-fretted, exclaim, ‘what is to hinder you *now* to be a little more profuse of *both*? business in Guatemala certainly does not require your attention from six o’clock morning till six o’clock night.’ Yes, my dear Sir, I am engaged from six o’clock morning

till *twelve* o'clock night, in general ; for when shall I have such an opportunity for the study of Spanish ? I find that I am an exceedingly dull scholar, and, to make the smallest progress, I must literally labour at it. 'But, an hour, cannot you spare one hour,' you will be ready to reply ? My dear Sir, such a short space, or even double that, does not suffice for me to write a letter of any consequence ; my ideas do not come readily, and, when they are indited, I am generally ashamed of my own production. I am particularly deficient in the talent and temperament necessary for the placing of incidents in such a point of view as either to amuse or instruct. One individual will state a circumstance, which will be hearkened to with listless inattention ; whilst the same event, related by another, will imprint animation upon every countenance, and cause every eye to sparkle with pleasure. In my constitution there is such a preponderance of phlegm, that things which would produce in others of a more sanguine disposition, 'wonder, mixed with admiration,' appear to me of the most common-place nature ; and it is astonishing how soon the particular customs and manners of a people cease to be observable,—the minute 'touches' are soon lost sight of, and the eye fixes upon the great general outlines which are peculiar to the human race, wherever found, and under whatever climate ; 'as in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man.' Man is the creature of habit, he soon gets accustomed to any thing.

"I have been the less anxious about writing you often, on account of Mr. —'s frequent communications ; I knew that you would learn, through them, that I was in health ; and I knew also that the intelligence which these contain is that which will regulate your

future movements. I have also been allaying my qualms (they do arise occasionally) by reflecting, that it is my intention to send you, when I return to Belize, health permitting, the dates that I have kept, with the few common-place remarks which are attached to them, as probably you may glean from them some little information.

“In consequence, however, of your earnest desire that I should write you frequently, and an opportunity now offering for transmitting a few lines, I have been induced to take up the pen. Facts which materially affect our interests need not fine language, nor elegance of arrangement, in order to give them weight, and secure our attention. Permit me, then, to state a few particulars in reference to your anticipated emigration, just as they may occur to me. First, then, I think that there are constitutions which are by no means suited for a warm climate; judging from myself, I think one who does not perspire freely would be very subject to fever. In general I perspire most immoderately; but, whenever the perspiration ceases, I feel unwell; this remark would be unnecessary could you at once be transported to Guatemala. You will be the best judge of your own constitution, and that of your family, in this particular. As it regards health, I think there is no danger in the voyage to Belize; though you will feel the heat uncomfortable before reaching the Bay. Comparing Belize with the other Golgothas in these latitudes, probably it may be the least bad, but, depend upon it, it is, notwithstanding, a place very uncongenial to the health of Europeans; a man may lay his account with sickness, as sure as he places his foot in it, that is to say, after remaining a month or two.

The voyage to Yzabal may occupy three or four days, and is rather an uncomfortable one. The vessels employed in this navigation are small, and for that reason an awning cannot be kept up when under sail; consequently, remaining upon deck, you are exposed to the scorching rays of the sun, and, if you venture below, feel as if you had got into an oven. In the wet season, the road between Yzabal and Guatemala is almost impassable from the swollen state of the rivers, &c.; you would need to pay particular attention to this, in fixing the time for leaving England: I think December the best. The road is certainly a rough one, probably more so than any you ever travelled, and very mountainous of course: the road, however, was nothing to me; but oh! the sun, the sun, the scorching heat of the sun, was *malo, malo*, as the Spaniards say; and all this might be endured, if some comfortable English inns could be set down here and there along the road; but no: if you can make up your mind to *domiciliate* with pigs, dogs, cats, chickens, and the filthy, half-naked inhabitants, themselves but a step removed above the brute creation, in a space twelve feet by twelve, you may, in general, have a roof over your head; but this, except in two or three instances, is the extent of accommodation. For my own part, in general, I chose rather to swing my hammock outside. There is a sort of bed, called a *catere*, which is in general use among travellers in this country; they are remarkably comfortable, and go into amazing little bulk, considering that, when rigged (which is done in a few minutes), they are regular four-post beds, with mattress, bed clothes, and curtains: Mr. ——— has one of them. Every one in this country travels armed,

à la militaire, with sword and pistols. We had no occasion to use ours ; but they are useful to have, as the very sight of them is a sort of protection. The fear is not of the Indians ; they, I think, are a kind, docile, harmless class of people, who will do any thing almost for those who treat them with kindness and civility ; but in this country, as in others, there are lawless people, and it is well to be prepared for them. And now, my dear Sir, I have conducted you through Purgatory—enter Paradise ; inhale the ambrosial breezes of the plain of La Virgen ; once more respire. The city of Guatemala is neat, clean, and picturesque, contains about 30,000 inhabitants, and covers about twice as much ground as one of the same population in England or Scotland. I think the better class of Spaniards, upon the whole, a polite, friendly set of people ; but the lower orders are a cut-throat looking race ; and, from all accounts, their appearance does not belie them, as they are said to be very reckless of human life.

“The tide of speculation seems to be setting in with overwhelming violence towards this continent ; but speculators in business seem to have the extent of the continent more in their eye than the number of its inhabitants. It is probably little known in England that the entire population of the *Provincias Unidas del centro de America*, for instance, does not much exceed that of the city of London, say 1,700,000.

“My dear friend, that passage of Scripture often occurs to my mind—‘Godliness with contentment is great gain ;’ and, in connexion with it, the reflection that there are only two things which can justify a Christian in leaving such a country as England. The first is an

unfeigned paramount desire, directly or indirectly, to be instrumental towards the moral and spiritual improvement of the people among whom he casts in his lot; the other, an inability, by industry and fair means, to procure a livelihood in his native country. You will not be surprised, if I say that I sometimes feel lonely, sometimes have a hankering to be again in the midst of my old friends. Do not suppose, from such remarks, that I feel uncomfortable in the society of Mr. ———; far from it: he treats me with the kindness and confidence of a brother.

“Little could be done here at present in furthering the cause of true religion: a person, even in private conversation, needs to be very wary how he states his sentiments. Mr. ———, however, is sometimes drawn into argument, not only with private individuals, but with some of the priests who frequent the house; few, however, could conduct an argument as he does,—he maintains his point staunchly, yet neither allows himself, nor suffers his opponent to get out of humour;—but more of this anon. Permit me for the present to conclude, or I may miss the opportunity of transmitting what I have already penned. Remember me affectionately to all.

“My dear friend,

“Yours, very affectionately,

“JAMES WILSON.”

“*July 11th.*—Have been engaged part of to-day writing to my friends at home. Señor ———, aged thirty-five years, is to be united in the bands of wedlock, on the 26th current, to a daughter of Señor ———,

aged fifteen. At this age, and even younger, females in this country are considered marriageable. Mr. ———, on learning the foregoing, jokingly said to Señora ——— that were he to return to Guatemala, after a lapse of fourteen or fifteen years, probably a Señorita might have been added to the family in the interval who might lend a favourable ear to his addresses; but, he added, she would need to be a Protestant. Señora ———'s aunt, who was present, replied 'that she could never be,' she would sooner see her dead than witness a thing so awful; nay, that she would sooner kill her with her own hands than she should lose her soul by becoming a heretic. Doubtless, in the performance of such an act, the old lady would think she would be doing God service. How diametrically opposed to the benign religion of Jesus is the spirit manifested in the above remark! What a blinding superstition must that be which so enthrals this people! Therm. 69°.

"*July 12th.*—Took a solitary ramble, and, having cleared the city, gained the beautiful plain beyond the hospital of San Juan. The cool breeze that swept along was refreshing, and, in conjunction with the beauties of nature spread all around, inspired me with fresh animation. At every step a variety of wild aromatic flowers regaled the senses. What a contrast is Belize! Here in every direction are fine picturesque walks; in the former place there is scarcely clear, or at least firm footing, sufficient for a poor *scribo* to exercise his limbs, after having been cramped at a desk for nearly twelve hours. Thunder, lightning, and rain. Therm. 69°.

"*July 13th.*—Have heard it remarked, to-day, that, six or seven years ago, if an Englishman had been found here he would have been put to death: the policy of the Spanish government having been to prevent all, except natives of Spain, from entering the country. The shortest distance from Guatemala to the Pacific is twenty-six leagues: the Spanish league is two miles and a half. Mr. ——— has had two chigoes taken out of one of his feet; the one had lodged in his heel, the other in one of his toes—that in the heel has left a cavity, about a quarter of an inch deep, and the same in diameter. Thunder and a good deal of rain. Therm. 69°.

"*July 14th.*—To-day accompanied Mr. ——— in a visit to El Commendador of the convent of La Merced. Upon reaching the convent, learnt that he was in the church assisting at the morning service. After waiting a short while he made his appearance, and received us with his usual affability. Mr. ——— having proposed to improve this visit, in procuring what information this ecclesiastic might be possessed of, in regard to the locality of places, distances, &c., took with him a map of the country. The face of El Commendador seemed to brighten at the idea of being serviceable, and, the map being spread before him, he apparently took much interest in the subjects which were the object of Mr. ———'s enquiry. He not only communicated what he knew himself, but also laid the information of some of the brotherhood under contribution. The result was, on some points, a coincidence of statement with that procured from other quarters, as well as new light thrown

upon others. In taking down a painting to show us, which he conceived something superior, he had to remove two ornaments, which were placed one on each side of it; they were the *palmas*, or preservatives against the effects of lightning, which have been previously noticed. Mr. ———, not that he was ignorant on the subject, but merely to hear what the monk would say, asked him what they were. He hesitated a good deal, and at last faltered out an ambiguous, half-articulated reply about their being made on Palm Sunday: in manner, if not in words, he seemed to say, really I am ashamed to own the truth. The walls of his room are hung with paintings, six in number, about four feet square, representing some of the prominent events in the history of David,—his combat with Goliath, cutting off the skirt of Saul's garment, dancing before the ark, &c. &c. He took us into a small plot of ground behind his apartments to see an apple-tree of a particular species which was loaded with delicious fruit. He wished to gather some for us to take along with us, but was rather puzzled how to get at the top of the tree, where were the ripest of the fruit. He soon, however, got over the difficulty; for, buckling his habit about his waist, he mounted a wall with the agility of a school-boy, and, clambering along the top of it on his hands and feet, he gained the roof of his habitation; from which he could reach the part of the tree on which hung the choicest of the fruit. Having gathered a small basket full, he descended with equal dexterity. He accompanied us to Señor ———'s. On parting, Mr. ——— presented him with an elegant copy of a Spanish Bible. —Have heard to-day that the conductors of part of the

loan contracted for in London, which was on its way hither, have been attacked about four miles from the city, by six armed banditti, but being escorted by ten individuals, who were also armed, they were more than matched. Two of the assailants were shot, and the other four fled into the woods. A good deal of rain—very loud thunder. Therm. 69°.

“ *July 15th.*—Mr. ——— commenced sitting for his portrait to Señor ———, who has executed likenesses of most of the merchants who have been in this place from Belize. I have seen portraits of Señor and Señora ———, which were taken by this artist; the latter in particular is a most striking likeness. Señora ———, her cousin, Don ———, Mr. ———, and self, took a walk to the plain of San Juan de Dios. Having traversed this charming spot, till twilight intimated it was time to think of home, we shaped our course towards the city, and, in our progress through it, Mr. ——— made several calls, which occasioned us to be later out than we have before been since our arrival here—say between nine and ten o'clock. On the way to our abode, as we approached the Plaza, or principal square, in which are situated the palace, the mint, the custom-house, barracks, &c., we were hailed with ‘*quien vive.*’ our Spanish friend gave the pass word, ‘*Guatemala libre.*’ Before we gained the opposite angle of the square we were repeatedly challenged in the same manner, by the sentinels at the different posts. I am informed that there was an eruption of the Volcan de Fuego last night; it con-

sisted of flame and smoke only; it would seem, however, to have been accompanied by the shock of an earthquake, as Señor and Señora —— say that at the time of the discharge the windows of their bedroom shook; but I was so snug in the arms of Morpheus, that I should have known nothing at all of the matter unless I had been informed. Day fine. Therm. 71°.

“*July 16.*—It is our intention, in returning to Belize, to go by the way of the Motagua, both to diversify the scene, and to avoid crossing the mountain of Yzabal, which at this season is almost impassable on account of the rains. Took a walk this afternoon in the direction of Jocotenango, but by a different road from what I had previously been. This district, as previously stated, is inhabited by Indians, and their indolent habits, and total absence of any thing like taste, prevent them from availing themselves of a luxuriant soil and genial climate. They seem content with the spontaneous productions of nature, which, indeed, are almost as abundant as what is yielded to the hand of industry in less favoured regions. The roads alone seem to be the effect of design; and being planted on each side with trees, the branches of which meet overhead, they have the appearance of extensive arbours. Scattered all around, and almost hid with the umbrageous foliage, are the cottages of the Indians. Beautiful wild flowers, which skirt the road, contribute much to enliven the scene. This afternoon have had a discharge of cannonry. Mr. —— enquired of one of the Ciudadanos the cause of it; he replied in a

drawling unconcerned sort of tone, accompanied with the contortion of mouth peculiar to the Spaniards when they think a greater to do is made about any thing than the occasion warrants, that he believed the ambassador to the Columbian government had returned, and probably it might be occasioned by some news which he had brought. No rain. Day very fine. Therm. $71\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$.

“*July 18th.*—A German, who was here lately, sold to one merchant 190 pieces of woollens; enough, in the opinion of Señor —, to serve the place for years. Woollen cloth is only worn by the genteeler classes, and, excepting by a few, by these only on holy-day occasions. It is true, indeed, that almost every individual, above the station of a muleteer, has a cloth cloak; but these are only used when they have occasion to go out, and consequently may last for years. It was related at supper to-night, that there had been a murder the preceding day. To enquire into the circumstances connected with such an event is to no purpose; ‘*quien sabe*’ would be the reply. From the little interest which occurrences of this nature seem to excite, it would appear that they are actually of such ‘*todas las dias*’ a nature as to fail to elicit even an exclamation of surprise. It was settled that we should to-morrow, nothing particular occurring, in company with other three persons, take a ride the length of La Antigua (old Guatemala), nine leagues distant; but there was a lady in the question, and an obstacle occurred on the part of Señora, which was deemed of sufficient magnitude to cause her to secede from the party: a hint was also dropped, how

lonely she would feel during the absence of her husband, say for three days. Mr. ——— perceiving a disinclination, from some cause or other, to the meditated excursion (which originated with themselves), proposed that, at some future period, say next time he visits Guatemala, they should indulge themselves with a few days to visit the picturesque scenery of La Antigua. Day fine. No rain till about eleven o'clock at night. Therm. $71\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$.

“*July 19th.*—Señor ——— has been mentioning that he has sent Indians all the way to Gualan to bring forward, on their backs, some valuable cases of glass mirrors, &c. The carriage of goods from Belize costs about £30 sterling per ton. This afternoon have had a drive to the southward, the length of the aqueduct, in a coach and four, with two postilions; and though the antique appearance of the said machine would doubtless, in the streets of London, attract the gaze of curiosity, yet it was by no means a despicable vehicle. On our return homewards, on entering the suburbs, observed some of the Indian children kneeling as we passed, mistaking our equipage for that of the bishop. There are several coaches in this place; but, excepting that of Su Ilustrissimo, they are rarely used: this dignitary generally takes a drive in the forenoon and afterpart of the day. About eight o'clock in the evening a courier arrived from Yzabal, with a parcel for Mr. ———, which on opening proved to be letters from England, *via* Belize. By this opportunity I am favoured with letters, newspapers, &c., from friend ———, the latest date of which is 14th of May; thus taking sixty-seven days to

come from London to this place. Thunder and rain in the evening. Therm. 71°.

"*July 24th.*—A few nights ago, heard the report of a gun just as we were about to retire to bed. Have learnt to-day that a French colonel, who had lately entered the Guatemalian service, was shot at a night or two ago in this neighbourhood; it is probable the discharge we heard was that of the musket levelled at him. It is rumoured that there was some disturbance at the barracks last night, so serious as to render it necessary to beat to arms. It is also stated that there was some altercation between the two classes of the military, the civilians and those of the line, during their presence at another of those '*Corpus*' processions which has taken place to-day.—Therm. 72°.

"*July 25th.*—The day of Santiago, and, according to the phraseology of the Catholics, 'a double cross-day,' or one of particular sanctity. These crossers are observed more strictly than the Sabbath itself. It is reported that there were three murders yesterday; one of the perpetrators was a female, and the object of her vengeance one of the same sex. Mr. ——— stated that an individual of his acquaintance asked this poor creature what had induced her to accomplish such an awful deed: she said that the woman had provoked her. It was urged that that was no reason for depriving a fellow-creature of life: she added, with an air of callous indifference, but she *tore my shift*. The annual average of individuals received into the hospital, who have received injuries from lethal weapons unlawfully used, is stated to amount to 475; and this,

I conjecture, exclusive of those murdered outright. Individuals guilty of this most heinous crime are merely punished by a short imprisonment. One person is said to be going at large who has committed seven murders. There has been another murder committed to-night; a woman in a state of pregnancy is stated to have been the unfortunate object, and a soldier the perpetrator. Some thunder in the evening. Therm. 71°.

“*July 26th.* St. Ann’s day. ‘*Madre de la Virgen,*’ —single cross. This morning, at four o’clock, ‘*en la Iglesia,*’ Señor ——— was united in the bands of wedlock to Señorita ———. Have been present most of the day at the wedding entertainment. There were present about thirty of both sexes. Besides a formal dinner, the table, during the whole of the day, was loaded with confectionary of all kinds, and a variety of wines. Witnessed nothing peculiar. Mr. ———, who was present earlier than I, states that a procession of Indian youths visited the house, some dressed to represent angels, and one personified Satan; two of the former delivered speeches in praise of matrimony, which, he says, were very much to the purpose; the latter attempted to speak in dispraise of the wedded state, but was over-ruled by the angels. The dress of some of the ladies was costly; but, excepting that of Señora ———, none of them could be called elegant. They are very fond of ornaments, such as ear-rings, finger-rings, necklaces, chains, combs, &c.; and the hair, neck, ears, and fingers, particularly of the married ladies, show a profusion of these, and of the most costly description. Have previously noted that the bride, in the present case, is only *fifteen* years of age. People in this country soon attain maturity,

and they as soon begin to show marks of age; under twenty years of age, they seem five or six years older than they actually are, and ten or fifteen years older when above twenty. The grandfather of the young lady referred to above, who was one of the company, is only about seventy years of age, but he has the appearance of one who has told fourscore years and ten. The circumstance of this individual being referred to as a sort of prodigy, on account of his liveliness and activity at such an advanced age, would indicate that the ideas of the Guatemalicos and those of Englishmen differ somewhat as it regards longevity. Therm. 71°.

“ *July 27th.* Have accompanied Mr. — in making a round of visits. Something has occurred on the part of our Spanish friends, who are to be our fellow travellers, which will detain us till Monday. We shall muster strong: company is particularly pleasant on such a road. Had a pleasant stroll this afternoon the length of the plain north of Jocotenango. There are four periodicals on foot at present in this place, *El Liberal*, *El Indicador*, *Redactor General*, and *Gaceta del Gobierno*.

“ *July 29th.*—Have heard it stated that an individual has offered 15,000lbs. of indigo in exchange for a house in this place. The house we reside in is among the most commodious that I have seen in Guatemala, and the rent of it is only £100 sterling. I understand houses in general, when rented out, do not at all pay any thing like a remunerating interest on the original cost. Individuals, however, who are able, prefer, not-

withstanding, purchasing houses to renting them, as they have thus a fixed residence, and are not liable to be ejected at the will or caprice of another: instances are rare of individuals removing from one house to another. Guanaco is a term signifying one born in the provinces, in contradistinction to a native of the capital; it would appear that it is considered a term of reproach to call any one a Guanaco. Rain. Therm. $71\frac{1}{2}$.

“ *July 30th.*—Seven mules are engaged for our journey on Monday. The riding mules are six dollars, the cargo mules five dollars and a half; and, over and above, Mr. ——— finds the muleteers;—not a good plan,—better have given a little more for the mules, and allow the muleteers to shift for themselves, as they take every opportunity to impose upon those they have any dealings with. Passports have to be procured for ourselves and luggage, the former from the ‘Ministro de Estado,’ the latter are issued by the Custom-house. Therm. $72\frac{1}{2}$ °.

“ *July 31st.*—Have had a number of farewell visits to-day.—Therm. 73 °.

Population of the principal Cities of the Republic.

Guatemala	30,000	San Sonate	8,000
Old ditto	12,000	San Miguel	12,000
Leon	25,000	San Salvador	15,000
Granada	10 or 12,000	Cartago	18,000
San Vicenti	6 or 7,000		

The entire republic, forming an area of 26,000 square leagues, has only a population of about 1,700,000.

“ San Jose, August 1st.—Left Guatemala this morning, at half past seven A. M. The morning was favourable; were accompanied by Señor ——— and his nephew the length of La Garda. Had a fine view of the city after we had gained the heights, the day being quite clear. Our friends set out rather earlier than we did; we overtook them about a quarter after ten A. M., at an Indian hut, where they stopped to bait. Passed Los Navajos at twenty minutes from one P. M., and arrived at San Jose quarter past one P. M. At half past, it commenced raining very heavily: luggage arrived at a quarter after three, much wet with rain, notwithstanding being covered with stout mats. Four o'clock—it has ceased raining; and we fondly anticipate fair weather to start with in the morning. The water we have drunk is so coloured with mud as to resemble soap-suds. At half-past six o'clock P. M. Therm. 70°.

“ Sincuenta, August 2d.—We left San Jose at six A. M.; passed Agua Caliente twenty minutes from eight—river easily forded; arrived at Los Platonos twenty minutes after nine: this latter place, contrasted with others, would be comfortable stopping quarters. The road between San Jose and Agua Caliente is most wretched; between the latter place and Los Platonos rather worse. Previously to reaching Agua Caliente, first our servant, and then Mr. ———, were thrown from their mules; both were a little hurt, but neither seriously. Left Los Platonos twenty minutes after ten, and reached Omoita at half past two P. M., much exhausted. Shortly after leaving the former place, one of the company was stung in the

hand by some insect, which caused it to swell very much. Before reaching Omoita, we lagged behind our Spanish friends, and in consequence went considerably out of our road. Left Omoita twenty minutes after four, and at half past seven stopped for the night at Hacienda (Trapicha Vieja), about three leagues from Wastatoi. We rode nearly an hour in the dark, over a very rugged road; we sometimes could scarcely see our guide, and had occasionally to stop till he reconnoitered, or rather felt the road. Our luggage did not come up with us, consequently had to pass the night the best we could, in a shed in front of the hut.

“ *Chimalapa, August 3.*—Left Traphica Vieja at half past four A.M., passed Jamaica at half past five, and arrived at Wastatoi at half past six; between the two latter places crossed the river eleven times. The country around Wastatoi is very picturesque, and in a good state of cultivation. Left this place at half-past eight A.M.; at a quarter after ten, passed a cairn of stones, which, our guide informs us, was the grave of an individual who had been stabbed there; at twenty minutes from eleven, took refuge in a hut from the burning rays of the sun. Left at half-past three, and arrived at Chimalapa at half-past seven A.M., completely worn out. Previously to reaching this place, I was pitched from my mule, in consequence of my foot coming in contact with the stump of a tree; received no injury. Very little shade on the road we have traversed to-day; it is otherwise comparatively good, being rather level: had to bivouack for the night in a shed, open on all sides; and, as our luggage did not come up with us, were rather in a pitiful plight;

for myself, I have never enjoyed on the road the luxury of a bed, having started with a hammock, and I find laying on the tops of the trunks almost as comfortable as being doubled up in a hammock. Water is rather a scarce commodity—had to purchase it here.

“ *Zacapa, August 4th.*—Started from Chimalapa a quarter from seven, and arrived in Zacapa at half-past one o’clock P. M. : we are lodged in the school house. The heat, during to-day’s ride, has been most oppressive ; we had several times to lay down under the shade of trees ; and I felt so debilitated that I frequently thought I should be under the necessity of spending the night in the woods. Mr. — was still worse ; he dropped behind us ; but, having two servants attending him, we felt the less anxious on his account,—as for myself, I required a nurse in place of acting as one. Mr. — was several hours later than we in reaching Zacapa : he had to lay down in an Indian rancho (hut), and despatch one of the servants to this place for wine ; and it was not till thus supplied with fresh stimulus that he was able to proceed. When here last, the inhabitants were engaged in prayer for rain ; this afternoon they have been similarly employed—had a plentiful supply in the evening. The schoolmaster says, that the population of this place is 7000. I do not think it can be so much. He states the number of scholars to be fifty.

“ *August 5th.*—It is agreed to remain here a day, in order to allow our baggage to come up with us. One of the muleteers has just arrived, from whom we learn that our cargo mules are ahead of us at San Pablo, four

leagues distant, they missed us, in consequence of having taken a different route. Have despatched the man who brought the intelligence, to bring back Mr. ——'s catere and portmanteau, and my hammock, as there is some intention of remaining here over Saturday. Heat suffocating,

“*August 6th.*—Have passed a miserable night on the floor; almost dissolved with perspiration, and tormented with insects. Part of our luggage has arrived from San Pablo, by which means I have had the luxury of a change of linen. Our Spanish friends have concluded to spend another day in this place; and Mr. —— also remains to oblige them, but indeed he needs this interval of rest, as he is very much weakened by the fatigue of the part of the journey already accomplished. The heat has been so great that I could scarcely stir or think from exhaustion—have wished for a sleeping draught, to cause me to forget myself for twenty-four hours—my body is covered with the prickly heat—I feel very uncomfortable—this is a trying climate, and a trying journey—I really think it is as much as a man's life is worth to undertake it. Valle's remark, in regard to this country, is certainly a just one, namely, ‘fever and death guard its entrance, and salubrity reigns within its bosom.’ My dress is a shirt and pair of drill trowsers, and, even with these slight habiliments, the perspiration runs through me like water, upon the slightest exertion. Our companions are rather too fond of frolick. To-night they procured two musicians,—one with a mirimba, and the other with a guitar; they also brought in some Spanish damsels, of what character I know not, though I suspect none of

the best; they commenced shouting like madmen;—the consequence was, we got all the *rifraf* of the place around us. Seeing, however, that we neither joined in their amusements, nor showed any sign of relishing them, they adjourned to the street, and commenced serenading throughout the town. Rain late in the evening. Therm. 88° in the forepart of the day, but must have been much higher in the afterpart. I felt as shut up in an oven.

“*August 7th.*—To-day, at quarter from four P.M., the Consul from England to this government arrived at Zacapa, on his way to Guatemala.* Therm. at one o'clock A.M. 84°, and middle of the day 85°, in the shade.

“*Gualan, August 8th.*—Left Zacapa at four o'clock morning, and arrived at San Pablo at half-past six; road pretty tolerable. Left a quarter after seven, and reached Chorfo at nine; stopped here a few hours, and took some milk and water at a decent-looking *rancha* of a decent-looking couple. We stopped at the same place in going; I then witnessed in the said hut what, in this quarter, is truly a rare sight—a few books, one of them a Bible. At eleven o'clock, halted at a hut two leagues from Gualan, where we remained during the heat of the day. Previously to reaching this place, I was pitched over the ears of my mule, in consequence of its stumbling with me; providentially, at the place where this happened, the ground was soft, and, though a little stunned, yet I received no particular injury. Started from said hut, and

* The gentleman, Mr. O'Reilly, was murdered in Guatemala, in 1828, by his own servant, a native of the place.

arrived in Gualan at a quarter after five P.M. Road between the two last places comparatively good: fine shade. Thunder, lightning, and rain in the evening.

“August 9th.—A good sized decked boat, or as it is called here ‘*pipante*,’ is engaged, and we expect to commence the aquatic part of our journey on Saturday first. Much rain, thunder, and lightning—the thunder appalling. Therm. 89° in the shade.

“August 10th.—Our Spanish friends, along with some of the Dons of the place, were engaged most of last night at gambling. There has been much rain to-day, which, with the rain yesterday, has tended to cool the air greatly. Therm. 85°.

“August 11th.—The Spaniards and their cronies have again been at cards, till half-past four this morning. This sort of work is a great annoyance to us, but, in present circumstances, we have scarcely a choice. There are four of us, besides three servants and our luggage, huddled into one apartment: this is a specimen of the accommodation to be had in Gualan. One of our fellow-travellers left this morning by way of the Montagua for Omoa: his intention is to proceed to the Havanna. Rain in the evening. Therm. 83°.

“August 12th.—The body of water in the river this morning is at least double what it was yesterday—its rate of motion cannot be less than six or seven knots an hour. It is said that the Deputy of Commerce here has a salary of 2000 dollars per annum, paid from a fund belonging to the merchants in Guatemala, and under

the management of a court, composed of individuals chosen from that body, called 'the Consulado.' These agents, whose business it is to take charge of and see to the safe and proper conveyance of effects belonging to their constituents and others, are placed at different stations along the road at the sea-ports.—At four o'clock P.M., terrific thunder and lightning, accompanied with heavy rain. The Thermometer has been $17\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ lower than we had it when last in this place—say noon 82° , at five o'clock afternoon $78\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$.

" *Gualan, August 13th.*—The charge by the owner of the *Pipante* for each seron and package of luggage is four dollars; passage money, for each individual, twenty dollars; and he insures the effects to Omoa. Bread in this place is about three times the price that it is in Scotland; a roll, which in the latter place would cost one penny sterling, costs here five pence currency.—Therm. at eight o'clock morning 79° ; noon 85° .

" *August 14th.*—This place seems to be a complete nest of gamblers. I am sick of it, and long to quit it. One of our fellow-travellers was out till half-past three o'clock this morning, engaged in gambling; and I understand he lost a good deal of money. They have had their cochineal shipped to-day, and we expect to be off to-morrow morning. Therm. 89° .

" *Rio Montagua, August 15th*—Left Gualan at eight o'clock A. M. in the *Pipante* 'Esmaralda,' Porto Rico, Master; number of mariners, including captain, six-

teen ; passengers eight. Quarter from nine, stopped to cook—got under weigh half-past nine—twenty-five minutes from eleven, passed the hill on which is situated La Yquana. Arrived at Los Encuentros twenty minutes from twelve. There is a garrison of eight soldiers at this place. Have here to exhibit passports for cargo. Left ten minutes before one P.M. Stopped for the night at half-past two P.M. A canopy is erected upon the beach with the branches of the mahon tree, in order to screen the cateries from the rain. Under this shed our servant killed a poisonous snake, about a yard long, of the species called *Tomy goff*; the bite of this reptile is said to prove deadly in a very few hours. Tormented with mosquitos.

“ *August 16th.*—It rained very heavily during the most of last night. Started this morning twenty minutes before six ; a few minutes after leaving, struck a rock, which caused the boat to leak. Stopped at eight o'clock for breakfast—off again twenty minutes from nine. Saw an alligator basking on a sand bank. The water increasing in the hold, at ten minutes from nine stopped to examine the leak ; when it was ascertained that one of the planks was broken in two places. It was found necessary, in consequence, to unload the whole of the cargo, consisting of eighty-two serons cochineal, besides luggage, &c. Quarter past one P. M.—They have taken the boat to a more convenient place, higher up the river, to repair the damage. We are left in the bush ; tigers, crocodiles, snakes, and every kind of noxious reptiles and tormenting insects are our companions. Where we are, the banks are steep ; to reach the sleep-

ing canopy which they have erected, have to pull ourselves up by the roots of the trees. Señor —— killed a snake alongside of Mr. ——'s caterie. Very heavy rain in the afternoon. Quarter after six P. M.—The boat has returned. Yesterday we saw huts all along the river ; to-day have observed none.

“ *August 18th.*—Those who had cateries passed the night under the usual canopy of branches ; we, who had none, lay squatted along the deck under an awning of the same. Rained all night. Left this morning at twenty minutes before six. The morning very foggy ; yesterday the same ; saw no houses on yesterday's sail. At six passed Rio Francisco on the left. At eight stopped for breakfast ; off again a quarter before nine : ten minutes after one, stopped for dinner. At this place the boatmen landed their provisions, which were placed in the bush, under a covering of branches, till their return ; this, I suppose, was to make room in the hold for what of our luggage was upon deck, to prevent it getting wet in crossing the bar, as well as to lighten the boat. Under weigh again twenty-five minutes after three ; moored for the night ten minutes before five. Have seen no houses to-day.

“ *August 19th.*—A good deal of rain last night—myriads of mosquitos—my bed a coil of ropes. Started a quarter after five A. M. Met a piragua with two men, on their way to Gualan. Passed two canoes moored on the bank of the river ; understood the crew were employed in collecting sarsaparilla. Brought to, to cook breakfast, at half-past seven ; off ten minutes after

eight. Another piragua ascending the river. Five minutes after ten, stopped to take on board the masts and water barrel. They seem to take this method of concealing among the thickets, in convenient places on the banks of the river, what will not be required till they reach these particular places again. Detained only ten minutes. Got sight of La boca del Rio twenty minutes after ten—moored half-past ten—have dropped a little farther down, close upon the bar. The surge upon it, notwithstanding there is scarcely any wind, resembles the sea when agitated by a gale. The captain defers crossing till to-morrow morning, when we shall be favoured by the land breeze, and have the day before us to proceed to Omoa. This is the first time one of our Spanish friends has made a sally from the interior; he begins to lose heart at the sight of the billows, and deafening noise of the surge. In the event of being upset (a circumstance which not unfrequently happens), he has offered 1000 dollars to any one who will place him safely on shore. Where the boat lays, the bushes are close to the water's edge. There is only one small spot we can land upon,—here we distinctly trace the footmarks of a tiger. Saw another alligator this afternoon. The mosquitos and sand-flies are most tormenting; we have to keep our handkerchiefs in continual motion to drive them off. My hands, face, and lower parts of my legs, are so stung by these insects that I appear like one that had the measles or small pox. They do not, however, molest every one alike; it would appear that the blood of some individuals is more to their taste than that of others. Mr. —, for instance, though he complains of them being annoying, scarcely

shows any marks of being bit. No appearance of houses in this day's sail: indeed the banks of the part of the river traversed for the last three days, but particularly to-day, are low and apparently swampy, and consequently unfavourable for settlements. Rio Motagua disembogues to the north.

" *Omoa, Sabado, August 20th.*—Unmoored at ten minutes before five o'clock A. M., and at five were safely across the bar, which is really a dangerous passage. It was almost calm, yet the surge broke over the vessel as if it had been blowing a gale of wind. As we were approaching the agitated spot, the fears of our Spanish friend seemed to increase two-fold, at least he doubled the premium for saving him, in case of any accident happening to the vessel, say from 1 to 2000 dollars. The wind was very light; the oars were plied almost the whole of the distance to Omoa, abreast of which place we anchored about a quarter after ten o'clock A. M. We have thus been five days from Gualan to the mouth of the river, out of which, from the foregoing memoranda, it would appear, that there has only been twenty-five hours and fifteen minutes sailing; which, calculated at five miles and a half per hour, makes the distance of 139 miles. The sail from the mouth of the river to Omoa occupied five hours and twenty-five minutes; say at three miles and a half per hour, is nineteen miles.

" *August 21st.*—Have learnt that the schooner was here twenty-five days ago. The person who engaged the schooner expects her arrival in Omoa daily. Visited

El Castillo. It is a most respectable fortification—mounts about twenty-seven pieces of cannon of various calibre—miserably garrisoned, the troops resemble the ‘ragged rogues’ that Falstaff refused to march through Coventry with. There are three or four prisoners in this place; one of them, a man of colour, his head white with years, and who was heavily ironed, attracted our particular attention. Upon enquiring of him the cause of being in such a plight, he coolly told us it was for murder, and justified himself by saying he was in liquor at the time; and, if his narration of the matter be correct, it was certainly in a great measure accidental. Our Spanish companions have had to dismiss one of their servants for insolence, and I believe they also accuse him of dishonesty. A decent, honest, active servant is a blessing in any circumstances, but particularly when travelling in this country. We are pretty well off in this particular. Therm. $83\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$.

“*August 22nd.* This place seems composed of between 200 and 300 houses, some of which are rather decent-looking places. It is situated on a level space of ground, at the bottom of lofty hills. It is about half a mile from the beach, and the particular spot where it stands seems dry; but the space between it and the beach is swampy; and, besides, there is a large track of similar land to the north, immediately contiguous. The sea breeze passing over this place must be contaminated, which is the cause, I should think, of its being so unhealthy: the hills, too, behind the town confine the air. In Belize, though we are in the midst of a complete swamp, yet there is nothing to obstruct the circu-

lation of air; and, the town being close on the water's edge, we get the sea breeze uncontaminated. This I believe to be the reason of its comparative healthiness. Omoa, however, possesses two advantages over Belize, viz. freedom from mosquitos, and good water. There are great numbers of run-away slaves here, who belonged to individuals in Belize. It is disgusting to see the airs and the insolence of the coloured people here, of whom the population is chiefly composed. Therm. 84°.

“ *On board the Swift, August 24th.*—Got under weigh a quarter after eight A.M., but the wind was light and baffling; a breeze, however, is now springing up, and we begin to make progress.

“ Quarter from five.—The breeze freshens, and we get on briskly—ships in sight, one on the starboard quarter, and the other on the starboard bow. Twenty minutes from eight.—The shades of night have closed around us. Shipwreck in any circumstance would be appalling, but darkness would certainly add fresh horrors to the scene. We have just now been the subjects of momentary consternation, in consequence of coming in contact with what we conceive to have been floating timber. The concussion was such as almost to stop the headway of the vessel, she going at the rate of about six knots an hour. Ten o'clock P.M. It blows a violent gale—there are some reefs, shoals, &c., ahead of us, and all is anxiety till we pass them.

“ *August 25th.*—Quarter from six A.M.—We are about half-way between Point Placencia, and South Stern

Creek—a vessel lying at anchor at the former place. Quarter after ten.—We are abreast of Settee river; there are a few houses at its mouth. Quarter after one P.M. passed Settee settlement. It was here that some of the Poyasians were sent by the authorities of Belize: none of them now remain; some died, others went home, and the rest are straggled all about. The place is at present inhabited by Caribs. It presents a front to the sea of about fifteen houses. Quarter after four, rose the Triangles (a number of low swampy islands.)—Since morning, till about half-past six evening, we have had a very favourable breeze. The wind now is squally and variable. Anchored abreast of the settlement at half-past nine P.M. Have concluded to stay on board all night, as the folks on shore may not have beds ready for us.

“Belize! Oh sweet Belize! I smell thy swamps once more.

“*August 26th.*—Landed at half-past eight this morning. There have been several deaths among the white inhabitants since we left—was not particularly acquainted with any of them. Among the military, several officers have either gone home, or have been drafted to other stations. I was sorry to find that a Christian friend, Mr. — had left the settlement.”

On Mr. Wilson's return to Belize, he found it necessary to remain there for some time, in order to assist in the business of the settlement. Mr. W. was not partial to Belize, and it never was his intention to remain permanently in that

place ; but, seeing that his assistance was required at the time, he felt it to be his duty to remain. He was always ready to run all hazards when in the discharge of what he considered present duty, and this principle constrained him to remain longer in that inhospitable climate than he ever contemplated, and ultimately cost him his life. During his residence in Honduras his conduct was such as became the Christian. While his spirit was deeply grieved at the daily exhibition of West India manners, and West India morals, the God in whom he trusted preserved him from their baneful contamination.

He certainly obtained for himself a good report of all who knew him ; and he secured the affection of those who could appreciate his worth. But I must again refer to his correspondence.

Belize, September 17th, 1825.

“ My Dear Friend,

“ What a world of uncertainty we live in ! We are constantly reminded, in one form or another, of the necessity of holding it loosely,—having our affections placed supremely on the never-fading joys which are in the presence of God. Truly,

‘ The pleasures lent us for an hour
Are soon to be restored.’

“ And is poor little Robert no more. The once active, bustling, and interesting little Robert, has he already closed his eyes on time, and opened them on a never-

ending eternity? My dear friends, sorrow not as those who have no hope; there is, I think, more than one passage which tends to inspire with pleasing hope, in regard to those who die in infancy. Is not your loss, then, his gain? Dry up your tears, or at least let them be the tears of joy, whilst with the eye of Faith you pierce the veil, and hear him sing the song of Moses and the Lamb.

“Truly there is nothing worth living for under the sun; all is vanity and vexation of spirit. Man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upwards. May we, therefore, be enabled to look to that source from which alone solid comfort can be derived. From a well-grounded faith in the Saviour, may we experience much of the peace which passeth understanding; and may his love sweetly and powerfully constrain us to live, not unto ourselves, but unto him who died, that such unworthy creatures as we are might have eternal life. O! that in all things we could have a single eye to the glory of God; viewing ourselves as pilgrims and strangers here, and looking forward to heaven as our home. And poor —, he also has quitted the stage of time. What a loud call: ‘Be ye also ready.’

“I sometimes, in spite of myself, get to contrasting Belize with Edina, Scotia’s darling seat; but O what a falling off is there! I keep my health remarkably well in this miserable hole, and have done so during all my wanderings in this country. At this moment, though sitting half undressed, and puffing and blowing on account of the heat, I enjoy as good health as I could wish for; but disease in this climate attacks suddenly, and is remarkably rapid in its progress. A person may

feel in perfect health one day, and the next be stretched a lifeless corpse.

"I have joined Mr. Bourne's small church. There is a Sabbath school connected with the chapel, in which three or four of us attempt to instruct the ignorant. The number present is generally between thirty and forty, of all ages from the spectacled matron, attempting to join the letters, *ba, be, bi, &c.*, to the child who can scarcely lisp the alphabet; they are all coloured people.

"I feel extremely grateful for your attention in communicating to my mother the intelligence you hear of me, and also for having remitted her the half-yearly money. I shall likely enclose a letter for her, and shall feel obliged by your forwarding it to her free of expense: she can ill afford to pay the postage.

"I have not made the progress in Spanish which might have been expected; there is positively little time for any thing of this kind in Belize. As I stated before, I have scarcely any time to read my Bible. Were I in Scotland again, with my present experience, I think I should not be easily induced to quit that favoured spot.

' At thirty, man suspects himself a fool ;
Knows it at forty, and reforms his plan ;
At fifty, chides his infamous delay ;
Pushes his prudent purpose to resolve ;
In all the magnanimity of thought
Resolves, and re-resolves, then dies the same.'

"I was much delighted by receiving Mr. Tait's letter. Ah! the dear friends I have left behind, when shall I see their like again?

"When you write to Scotland remember me most affectionately to him and all other friends.

"The average heat here by thermometer I think may be stated about 84°. It is often considerably higher, seldom lower, at least so far as my observation goes.

Yours, truly,

JAMES WILSON."

At a subsequent period he wrote thus to a friend:—

"Every day is furnishing us with something to convince us of the fleeting and uncertain nature of all earthly enjoyments. Happy is he, who, whilst living in the world, has his heart and affections set on heavenly things, and is laying up his treasure where moth and rust doth not corrupt, nor thieves break through and steal. But, whilst you have had cause to speak of judgment, you also have cause to sing of mercy."

And, again, in writing to the same friend, in July 1826, he says:—

"I particularly note the doleful catalogue of deaths, accidents, and misfortunes, or rather the painful visitations of Providence, among many whom I knew, and some with whom I was intimate in Scotland; from these may we learn, while diligent in business, to have our affections loose from the world, and to be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

"The settlement is very sickly. The remains of a young man were interred the other day, who, but a few days previous, was well and hearty, and to all appearance seemed a likely subject for the climate. As yet I have had nothing to call sickness, although very relaxed in consequence of the heat."

In September, 1826, Mr. Wilson addressed the following letter to the wife of one of his oldest and most intimate friends: she had little anticipation that it was one of the last letters which either herself or her husband would receive from his hand.

" Belize, Honduras, Sep. 6, 1826.

"My dear Madam,

"By the arrival of the brig John (August 27) I was put in possession of your much-esteemed letter, dated June 27, the contents of which brought forcibly to my mind the many happy hours that I have spent under the hospitable and friendly roof of my dear friends; from the first hour that I had the pleasure of your acquaintance, I have uniformly experienced from you and your dear partner the kindness and openness of a sister and a brother; and I can assure you that if ever my cold heart felt a glow of pure brotherly affection for any, it has been for you, my dear, my tried friends.

"Tell ——— I like the style of your letter better than that of his favours (though highly prized), and for this simple reason, that the latter scents rather strongly of the counting-room, whilst the former recalls to recollection the snug parlour and neat blazing ingle, with all its attending sweets, which cheer the heart 'when the day's dull, heartless toils are over.'

"When we take a retrospective glance of that part of the journey of life which we have already traversed, what a chequered scene presents itself. How many gay visions has experience dissipated! how many prudent, well-laid schemes have in one way or another been rendered abortive! We have lost old friends, and gained

new ones; have proved the hollowness of the profession of some, and the sincerity of others.—We have had our seasons of joy and our times of sorrow, and, when we look forward, the same shifting varied prospect still opens to our view. Ah! vanity of vanities, truly all is vanity. What can cheer us amidst this transitory state of things? It is natural for the mind of man to seek after happiness: it is a pursuit in which all are engaged. But how few, how very few, seek it in the way in which it is to be found—the way of heavenly wisdom, which is truly the only way of pleasantness and peace. I have sought it in a variety of ways, and can attest from experience that to be carnally-minded is death, but to be spiritually-minded is life and peace. The pleasure of the worldling resembles the momentary impulse of inebriation; it is ‘the pleasure of the maniac confined within his narrow cell, and fancying himself the monarch of the world; or that of the prisoner, sleeping on his chains, and dreaming that he is free.’

“This place, my dear madam, in a moral and religious point of view, is truly a dry and barren land; the Christian who comes here for the objects of business, unless he also decidedly possess a missionary spirit, is almost sure to suffer loss. In religious matters I do not feel at all comfortable; there was a period when my peace flowed as a river, but now that river is almost dried up, only here and there amongst the pebbles can be traced a trickling rill. In short, my soul has been famished for want of spiritual food—for lack of those means of grace which I enjoyed in such rich plenty in dear Scotland; and through which, by the favour of God, I have been led in some happy measure to experience a

degree of that solid comfort which the world can never impart.

“ But I hope in the course of eight or nine months, if my life be spared, to see you all again in the body. Two years, I think, is quite a long enough term for this quarter of the globe; and I do not think I can be found fault with for intimating a wish that guard should be relieved at the expiration of that period. If I should be so happy as to arrive once more in safety in your favoured isle, I shall then have an opportunity of conversing on many points which I feel rather averse from committing to paper. I never could seriously entertain the idea of settling in this place; and, in consequence, have been long balancing in my mind as to the line of duty in this particular. The result of my deliberations is a determination to return to England at the beginning of March next. I intimated this to Mr. — the 10th of last month, and hope he has communicated my determination to the house in London, in order that fresh hands may be sent out. I trust they will come by the Ocean next trip, and then, by the time she will be ready to sail hence, my engagement will be up; and, if I possibly can, I will embrace said opportunity for taking a passage to England. But the latter will depend entirely upon the former; if no reinforcement of fresh *convicts*, of course I must remain in ‘*genteel banishment*,’ as I have heard an individual near me term it. It would never do for me to desert the post until there be some one to relieve me; but I assure you I long to quit it. I never liked this place, and do not believe I could ever like it; and that on a variety of accounts. And yet I do not at all regret my coming here. I hope I have gained knowledge and experience, which, if

my life be prolonged, may prove useful to me in after years.

“ You state that my friends in Scotland wonder that they hear so seldom from me. Since my arrival here, I have received one letter from brother Tait, a few lines from brother Robertson, dated London, and lately one from much esteemed pastor, Mr. Innes. Don't you think that I surely must have written very seldom to be much in arrears? I however confess myself to be a very careless correspondent. I am happy to hear that they are all well: when you write, please to remember me to them all. But I must conclude: this is what is termed with us a ‘ fly-day;’ the wind is from the land, and, in consequence, we have myriads of tormenting insects from the swamps. I can scarcely write a sentence without waving my handkerchief around me, in order, in some measure, to preserve myself from their tormenting stings; even, notwithstanding, my forehead is completely blistered by them, and my hands seem as if I had that disease which is said to be more general in the northern than in the southern quarter of your island.

“ Wishing you every spiritual blessing, and every needful comfort,

“ I remain, with the sincerest brotherly affection,

“ Yours very truly,

“ JAMES WILSON.”

He again wrote to a friend, under date October 5th, 1826. This was the last letter he wrote to England, and is chiefly on the subject of his anticipated return.

His wish to return home was known to the house in London, arrangements had been made to relieve him, by sending out two young gentlemen, who sailed from London in January, 1827; and it was intended that Mr. W. should return by the same vessel.

A few days after the sailing of this ship, his friend in London was advised of the death of his widowed mother in Leith; and while he was considering with himself whether he should convey the melancholy tidings to meet him just as he was expected to depart from that climate, where distressing news has a more than usually injurious effect upon the health and spirits, or delay the painful communication till his return, the doleful tidings of his own death arrived. The stay and comfort of the widow had been cut off suddenly in the prime of life. He had been taken ill on the 19th of November, and on the 24th of the same month he left this world of sorrow and trial, and entered into rest.

God, in mercy, had not permitted his mother to hear of his death, and consequently of the death of one of her dearest earthly comforts; he was also taken away without knowing the sorrow of losing a parent to whom he had always been most affectionate and attentive, and whose temporal and spiritual welfare lay near his heart.

The tidings of his death were communicated in a letter, by one who knew him well, and who thus writes:—

“In Mr. W. I found a man whose fidelity, attachment to principle, nothing could shake. He was an unassuming, faithful, and judicious friend. This friend is now no more! On Friday evening last it pleased the all-wise Disposer of events to take

him unto himself, to enjoy that rest which remaineth for the people of God. His illness was but of short duration. Last Sabbath morning he rather complained of a chilly sensation, which we attributed to his having slept with the window of his bed-room open during the preceding night. His bed-room had a northern aspect, and the wind at this season of the year frequently blows rather cold from that quarter. Nothing serious, however, was apprehended."

After describing the progress of his disease down to the Friday, with the mode of treatment, he adds, "Dr. — now told us that all had been done that could be done, but there was no longer any hope. Life was ebbing fast, all that we could do, he said, was to persevere in the means we were using, that would be satisfactory to us; but he was afraid all means were now useless and unavailable. He remained about three hours in a state of insensibility, with his eyes fixed, and quite motionless. His breathing now became more difficult, and it was evident to us all that he was approaching the dark valley. That mercy, however, which had led him all his life long, smoothed his passage, and nature scarcely made an effort to retain the soul. His end was remarkably easy, and he appeared unconscious of pain; the expression of his countenance in death was that of calm resignation. His remains were interred last evening at the usual place."

~~"In all cases it is a great satisfaction to survivors to hear from the lips of dying friends."~~
 humble and holy confidence: in the case of our departed friend, however, this was, from the nature of his indisposition, impossible. It was not necessary,

though it would have been gratifying. His unaffected lowly piety, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, were manifested in every action of his life rather than in his words. He rarely spoke of his feelings or the experience of his mind; but, from what he has sometimes said, it is evident he had a deep conviction of innate depravity, and trusted in the Saviour alone for a free and full salvation. He was fond of retirement, which he sought for the noblest purposes; the Scriptures, Spanish tracts, and Russell's Letters,* occupied much of his intervals of leisure. He had a deep sense of his own unworthiness before God, and his genuine humility hid from himself much that was estimable and lovely in his character. His removal has left a sad blank in our little circle; but we doubt not that our loss is his eternal gain."

In concluding this brief Memoir of Mr. James Wilson, who was removed from this scene of sorrow and of change at the early age of twenty-eight years, I cannot help adverting to that degrading superstition so fully noticed by him, which blinds the minds and consciences of men. It is indeed lamentable to witness that kind of devotion of which ignorance is the mother, and that kind of zeal of which cruelty and persecution are the companions. Alas! for religion when she becomes the mistress of potentates and the handmaid of the world; by such unholy alliances, and such an impure connexion, she involves herself and her followers in one general ruin. Neither can I help adverting to the vast importance of living for eternity.

* Letters Practical and Consolatory, by D. Russel, Dundee.

We are all too much in the habit of seeking and expecting happiness from those things which perish in the using. The world tempts in a thousand forms, and flatters to deceive with fair promises of wealth, honour, ease, and respectability; and, in general, it is not till disease seizes upon us, and the grave yawns to receive us, that we confess from the heart that all is vanity. Alas! that it should be so, with such evidence before us that the world has been a deceiver from the beginning, and that all who have listened to her promises, have found her at best “a broken reed.”

There is much profession of Christianity; but to profess is one thing, and to live in subjection to Christ is another. Where do we find that deadness to the world—that utter disregard to its honours and its wealth—that subduing of evil tempers—and that concern for the welfare and happiness of others so consonant to the spirit of Christ;—where do we find that simplicity of belief and that perfection of confidence in God which led Abraham, against hope, to believe in hope;—and where do we witness the devotedness so manifest in Paul, who counted all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, and who was willing, not only to be bound, but to die for the sake of his Lord!—The Christian cannot tell the loss he sustains by allowing his mind to be *engrossed* with earthly things; and if he were in the habit of viewing, in the light of eternity, what he very modestly calls “prudence” and “necessary diligence in business,” he might probably form a very different estimate both of the motives and objects of his pursuit.

God has been pleased to reveal himself as the friend

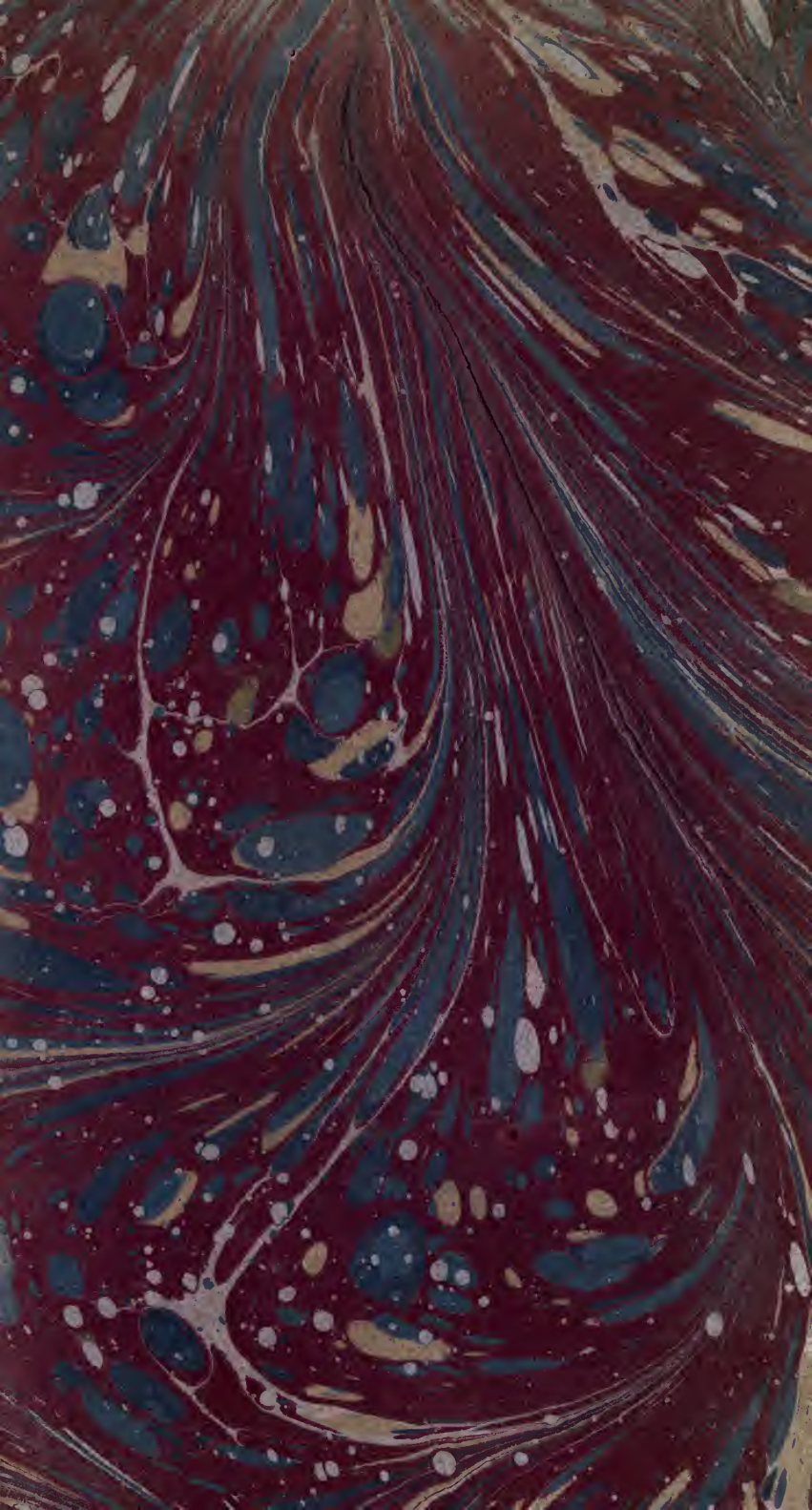
of sinners—He has manifested his love in the gift of his beloved Son—He has exhibited *Him* in his finished work upon the cross as the ground of hope for the *guilty*—He has proclaimed the good news of Salvation as connected with the belief of this finished work—and he has promised that all who believe in him shall not lack any good thing. Why then does the Christian so frequently depart from the fountain of living water; and seek to the broken cisterns that can hold no water, and why is he so faint and weary in his mind when trouble comes? It is because God has not that place in his affections which he ought to possess, and because his blessed word is not literally taken as yea and amen.

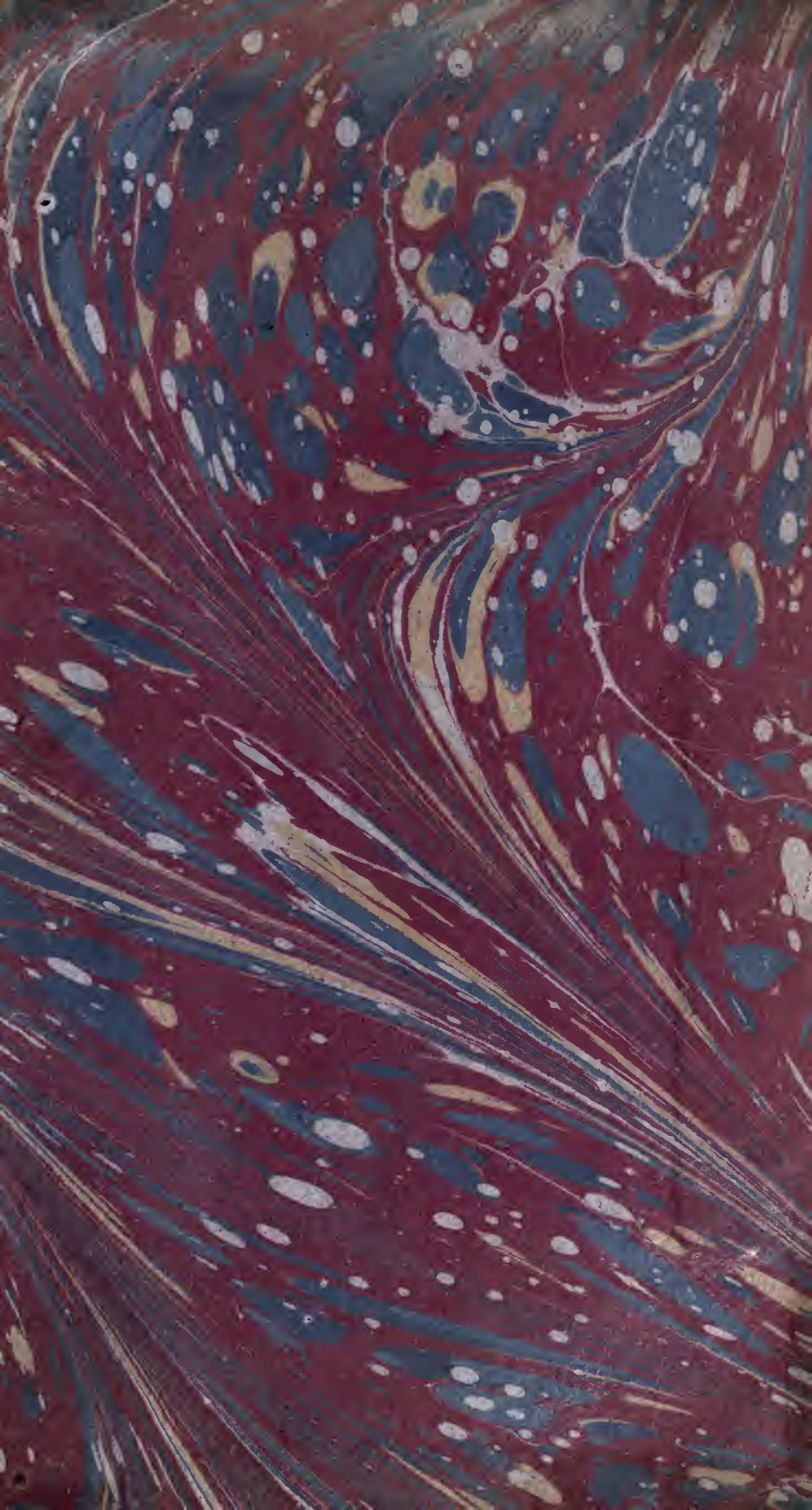
O how foolish to trust in man, to have hope towards man, and to cling to him with all his follies, with all his callousness, and with all his caprice, leaving the word of **JEHOVAH**, which is the anchor of the soul both sure and stedfast.



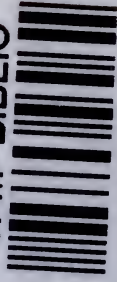








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